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Can Present Unstable Equilibrium Last?

ALLIES AND THE SOVIET

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

London, To-day.

MANY OBSERVERS here are asking whether the unstable equilibrium between the Allies and the Soviet will last, and many are answering in the negative.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain's speech shows that Britain will not take the initiative in reducing the present tension unless Moscow abandons the Finnish adventure, and all indications show that the Soviet is determined to pursue the campaign.

Certain political circles believe that Russia fears a reconciliation between the Allies and Germany at her expense.

As a last hypothesis it is conceivable that Germany and Russia sooner or later will completely join hands.

Soviet officials in London affirm that Moscow will remain neutral, but neutrality will be difficult to maintain if help for Finland assumes the proportion of open intervention.

BRITISH ATTITUDE CHANGING

Observers point out that until now British officials have emphasised that help for Finland will be "the maximum compatible with neutrality", but this reserve is more and more disappearing in official comments.

Evidently British and French help will be limited only by the amount of war material which can be spared.

Meanwhile political observers are following Italy's moves closely, and while voicing satisfaction over the increased Italian concern regarding the stability of the Balkans, they are wondering what attitude Italy will take in the case of joint Soviet-German action.—Havas.

NOTHING SAFE FROM NAZI GAME

London, To-day.

In the attack on a Trinity House boat, relieving lightships off the East Coast, the ship was crowded with men returning to their duty of keeping watch after Christmas leave, and thirty-one men were wounded and one officer killed. This is considered particularly barbaric assault, for hitherto ships of this essentially non-military service have been spared by the Nazi bombers.

It appears now that nothing that ventures on the seas from the raft of shipwrecked seamen to vessels bearing lightning personnel are immune from the Nazi attack.—British Wireless.

DAM STORY NOT CONFIRMED

LONDON, TO-DAY.

REPORTS PUBLISHED IN LONDON OF CONTINUOUS R.A.F. DAYLIGHT RAIDS ON THE NAZI SEAPLANE BASE AT SYLT WERE STATED EARLY THIS MORNING TO BE WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

Official quarters point out that the R.A.F. raid on the Sylt area, announced in last night's communique, took place in darkness yesterday morning.

Bombs were dropped near Sylt Island but their effectiveness could not be definitely ascertained.

Reports that the Hindenburg Dam had been bombed are hitherto unconfirmed. — Reuter.

WHITE PAPER PROMISED

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

London, To-day.

It is announced that a White Paper on the Anglo-Russian conversations in the first half of 1939 will be published immediately after Parliament reconvenes on January 16.

The Paper is being compiled under the direction of Mr. William Strang, one time chief of the British delegation to Moscow. — Havas.

SWEDEN RALLIES FOR FINLAND

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Stockholm, To-day.

"With Finland for Sweden" was the motto displayed in the Auditorium Hall, the biggest hall in Stockholm, on the occasion of a meeting of support for Finland last night.

Finnish speakers stressed that economic assistance was insufficient. "Despite the courage of our soldiers we cannot alone bear the burden of resistance. Volunteers are necessary."

"The coming month will show if the assistance given our army is sufficient."

A Swedish speaker emphasised that once Finland was conquered, Sweden would face the gravest problem in her history.

"It is in thinking of our children that we must do now what we can to maintain the independence of the Nordic countries."—Havas.

KREMLIN'S BITTERNESS

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

ROME, TO-DAY.

THE ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS COMMENT AT LENGTH ON THE FINNISH VICTORY OVER THE REDS AT SUOMUSSALMI.

The "Messaggero" states: "This disaster plainly demonstrates that the Kremlin morally has lost the war."

"Whatever Moscow may do to alter the trend of the military enterprise which is causing so much bitterness to the Soviet leaders, nothing can give back to the Soviet armies the honour they have lost on the Finnish battlefields."—Havas.

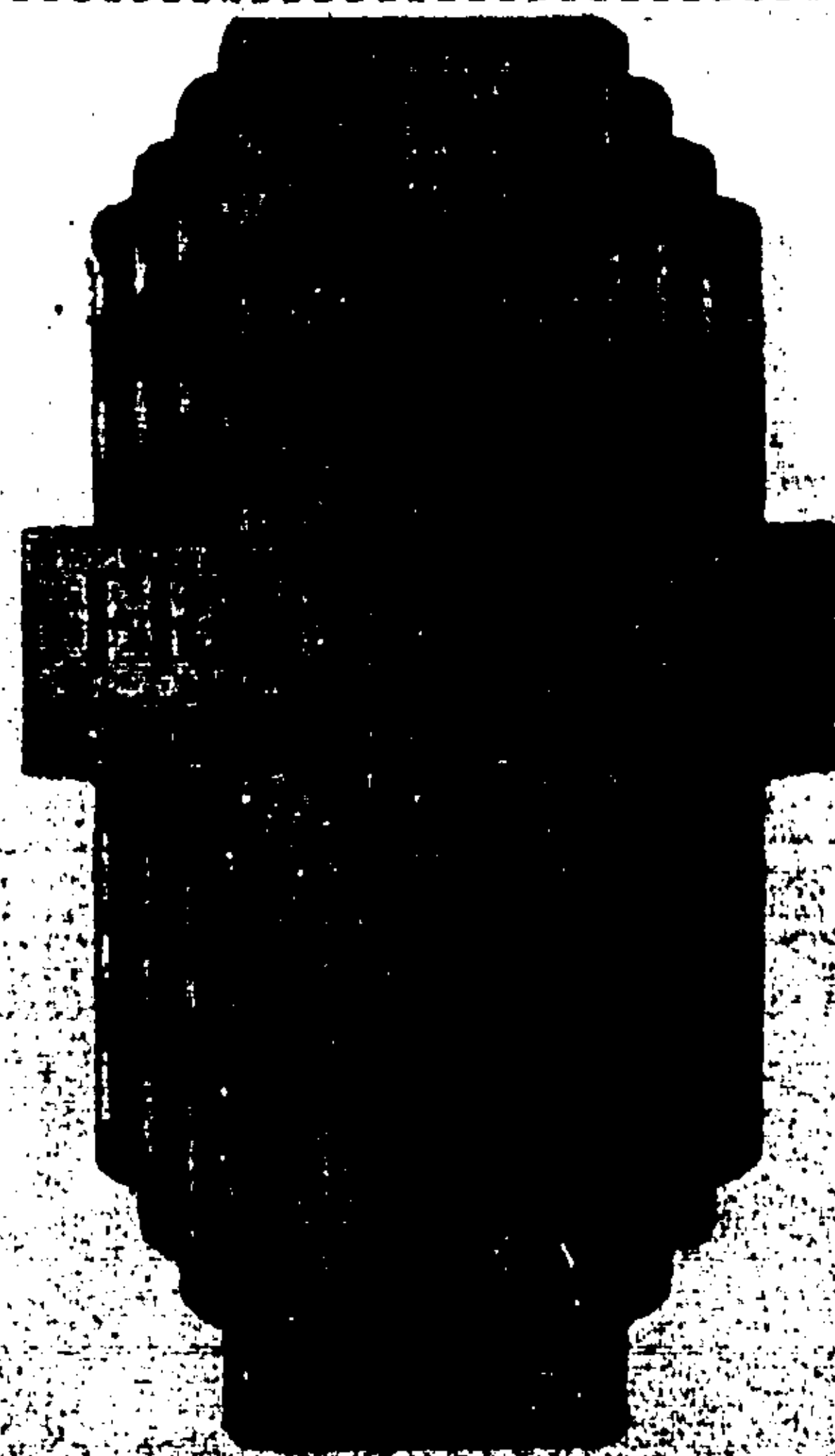
MINERS TRAPPED IN U.S. COLLIERY

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

New York, To-day.

Many miners were trapped when a gallery of the Springdale Coal Company mines caved in.—Havas.

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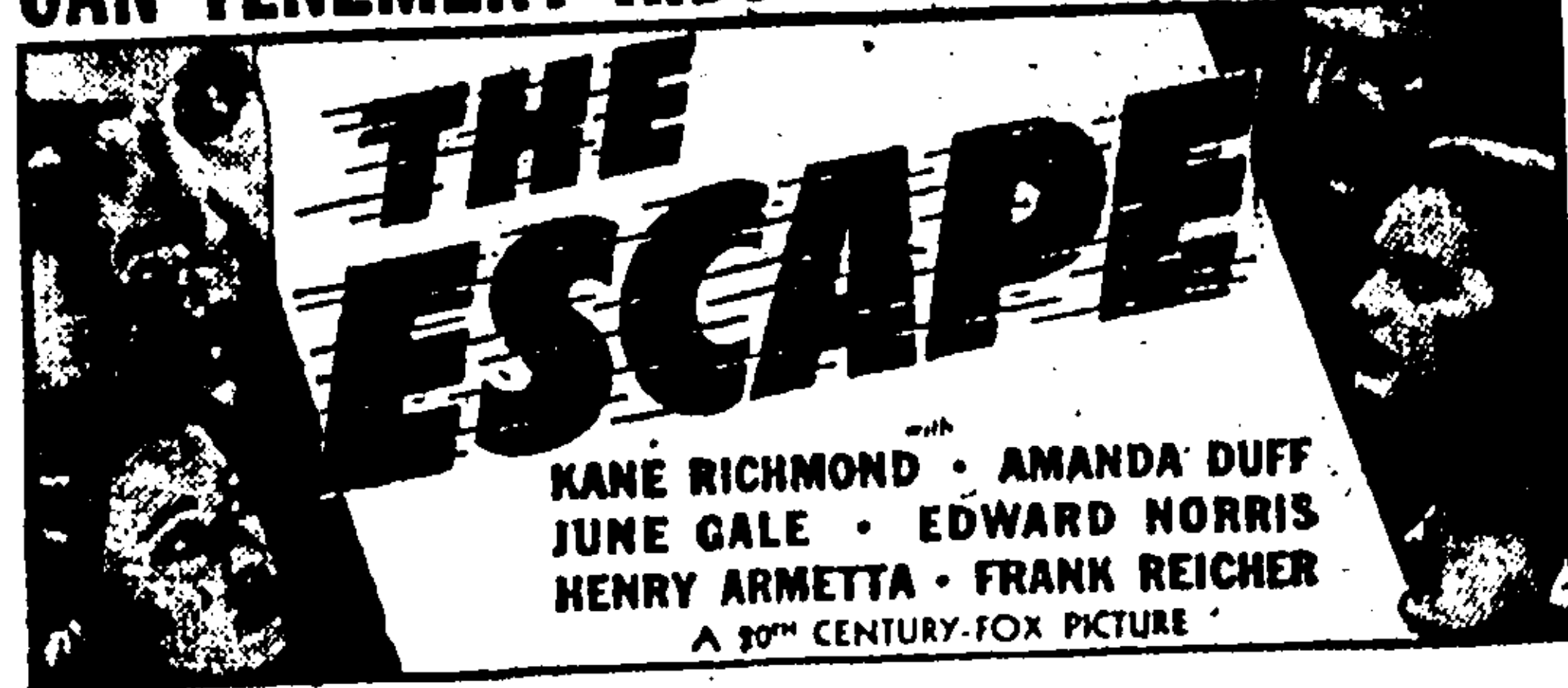
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TO-MORROW : "UNION PACIFIC"

GERMANY MAY BE COMPELLED TO MAKE A CHOICE

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

London, To-day.

SEVERAL PAPERS are of the opinion that the German-Italian dispute over the Reich's refusal to allow Italian war material to Finland transit through Germany may have serious repercussions, compelling Germany to choose between her two allies, Italy and the Soviet, since it might be difficult for her to satisfy both.

"The Times" Rotterdam correspondent expresses the opinion that Germany is apparently too tied up in her east European policy to give up her ties with the Soviet despite the fact that the help promised by the Soviet to Germany has so far not materialised and the Russian alliance was disappointing.

Meanwhile, the "Daily Express" Copenhagen correspondent states that Russia's reverse in Finland is making a wide gap between Herr von Ribbentrop and Field-Marshal Goering, the Economic Leader and the next-in-line to the Fuehrership.

Goering is reported to be more and more openly criticising Ribbentrop's pro-Sovietism. — Havas.

NAZI AIR ATTACK ON UPMINSTER

London, To-day.

The Master and two men of the steamer "Upminster" are believed to have been killed when the ship was bombed in the North Sea yesterday.

Ten survivors were landed at an East Coast port.

In describing the attack by two German aircraft the Second Officer — one of the survivors — said: "They swooped down and attacked us again and again, first with machineguns and then with bombs. We had no guns and no wireless."

Other survivors told how they were machinegunned as they tried to scramble into their small boats and again as they were rowing away.

"The planes swept our decks mercilessly as we ran for the boats." — British Wireless.

early hours of the morning.

Should it be established that British aircraft were responsible for the damage full restitution will be made to the Danish Government. — British Wireless.

R.A.F. NORTH SEA PATROL

London, To-day.

The Air Ministry announces: "During last night aircraft of the over enemy seaplane bases and R.A.F. again engaged on patrol bombs were dropped near the island of Sylt."

"It is reported from Denmark that damage was done to property adjoining the frontier in the

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FIGHTING QUALITIES OF THE FINNS

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Brussels, To-day.
THE FINNISH SOLDIERS are displaying marvellous fighting qualities, the Belgian General Badoux declared when he returned here yesterday after nine months spent in Finland.

General Badoux was adviser to the Finnish army in the construction of the Mannerheim Line.

He said: "I led Belgian troops against the Germans at the Battle of the Yser; I saw the British and French fight in the Great War, and still I was astonished at the fighting qualities of the Finnish soldier."

"The Finns are helped by a very modern organisation and defence line, in which machine-gunnery are invulnerable and not visible on the surface while covering a large field of fire, protected on the flanks by two other heavy machine-guns."
 "The Finns let the Russians approach to 200 metres and then open fire, which sweeps away the advancing ranks."—Havas.

ANOTHER RUSSIAN DIVISION IN PERIL

Helsinki, To-day.
 Reports from the Sala front indicate that another Russian division is facing defeat, having been cut off from its supply sources. The Finns, however, are letting the elements put in some work first, before launching the final attack.

At least 12,000 Soviet troops are said to be trapped in this area and their position is said to be desperate. It is thought likely that when the Finns do actually move in, the Russians will surrender.

The Soviets lost 60 per cent. of their effectives in the recent Suomussalmi battle which resulted in the wiping out of the 4th Division, and 2,000 men, including a Divisional Chief of Staff and 40 officers, surrendered under a flag of truce.

Russian dismay at Russian losses has resulted in an attempted to inject new spirit into the troops in this

sector. A high Political Commissar is reported to be on his way to the front to supervise efforts to strengthen morale.

Finnish women who evacuated Helsinki at the beginning of the war are starting to come back again, despite the possibility of further air-raids. The Government is advising them to return to the country. — Reuter.

WAR ON COMMUNISM

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Paris, To-day.
 The Deputy Premier, M. Camille Chautemps, will table to-day a bill providing for the abrogation of the parliamentary mandates of all deputies who do not repudiate their connection with the former Communist party.

M. Chautemps will demand an immediate discussion on the measure, which will leave the former Communist deputies one week to repudiate Communism or leave Parliament. — Havas.

WORK OF B.F.R.D.C. IN CHINA

Chungking, To-day.
 Over \$80,000 has so far been distributed by the Chungking branch of the British Fund for Relief of Distress in China, formerly known as the Lord Mayor's Fund, since the establishment of the branch here last March.

Out of a total of \$140,000 received some \$60,000 remain.
 Grants have also been made for relief work in Honan.—Reuter.

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DUTCH ARMY PLANE IN TROUBLE

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Brussels, To-day.
A Dutch military plane carrying two officers made a forced landing at Windmaradonck, near Antwerp, yesterday. The plane was not damaged.

The plane was forced down owing to fog and lack of fuel, and will be permitted by the Belgian authorities to leave to-day.—Havas.

NAZI GAS ACCUSATION REFUTED

London, To-day.

It may be recalled that attempts were made by the propaganda authorities in Germany to explain away the defeat of the Graf Spee by alleging that the British cruisers used mustard gas.

These allegations were denied at the time by the British Admiralty, which stated that no mustard gas, grenades or shells had ever been made for or used by the Royal Navy.

The charges were, however, repeated and an attempt was made to give them substance by citing the opinion of a German Uruguayan doctor, Dr. Walter Meerhof, whose Nazi proclivities are well known in Montevideo and who by his own admission based his opinion on the testimony of photographs.

DISPOSED OF

The report of the medical commission officially appointed by the Uruguayan Ministry of National Defence, particulars of which reached London yesterday, finally disposes of these baseless charges.

The document bears nine signatures and reads as follows: "After careful examination of all the wounded and sick from the battleship Admiral Graf Spee treated in the Military Hospital and in the Pasteur Hospital the special technical commission appointed by the Director-General of the Army Medical Corps declares it has found not the slightest trace of symptoms which could give rise to the suspicion that they had been affected by war gasses."—British Wireless.

LEGACY OF LAST TIME

London, To-day.

Twenty-one years after the Great War the Pensions Ministry is still spending £38,000,000 each year.

This figure was given by the Pensions Minister yesterday when speaking on the work on his department, and he added that in 25 years £1,350,000,000 had been spent on pensions alone.

Although 800 new cases were dealt with each year, the number of beneficiaries had now fallen to 850,000.

Saying it was impossible to speak too highly of this public spirited action, Sir Walter Womersley disclosed that 46 pensioners voluntarily relinquished their pensions as contributions towards the expenses of the present war.—British Wireless.

PROGRAMME ALLEGED TO BE COOKED UP

SHANGHAI, TO-DAY.

THE "CHINA PRESS," IN A LEADING ARTICLE SAYS THE MOST INTERESTING POLITICAL BRAIN-TEASER IN JAPAN TO-DAY IS WHETHER PREMIER ABE'S DESPERATE EFFORTS TO SET UP A CENTRAL REGIME IN CHINA WILL FINALLY SAVE HIS TOTTERING CABINET.

The newspaper adds it is clear that the programmes for organising such a regime are being used by General Abe purely as political weapons to ward off those attacks which threaten to overthrow his Cabinet.

They are cooked up, says the journal, without the powerful support of the Japanese military or an important and powerful section of it, namely the Japanese army in North China.

After recalling the North China Japanese military spokesman's recent statements to the effect that the Japanese army chiefs in that area had not been previously informed on the plan and want no part in it, the "China Press" concludes:

MAKESHIFT PLANS

"The makeshift eleventh-hour plans of the Tokyo Government to set up a central regime have only one direct sponsor and that is General Abe, whose political fortune may be saved by the immediate establishment of a Chinese 'government'."

"Many Japanese observers are able to see through this scheme arranged by General Abe, and no wonder they are saying to-day that General Abe is bartering away Japan's new order in East Asia for another month in the Premier's office."—Reuter.

WANG SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT

Shanghai, To-day.

The Japanese authorities and Wang Ching-wei are almost as far away as ever from reaching a final agreement despite all the excitement that has appeared in the press recently. Reuter was told to-day by an authoritative source connected with Wang's entourage.

He added that the only new development that had occurred in the negotiations had been that the terms of the general agreement reached some three months ago had been drawn up into a formula and deliberately allowed leak out in Japan—presumably for purely Japanese domestic reasons.

The wide general reasons on which Wang Ching-wei was to set up a government were agreed as long ago as October, Reuter was informed.

These corresponded generally to the terms suggested by Prince Konoye in his broadcast in December, 1938.

FRUITLESS DISCUSSION

Since then there has been considerable discussion on the application of these general principles, it is stated, but hitherto it has been found impossible to agree on details.

Notable among the difficulties are control of the Customs, the number and power of Wang Ching-wei's Japanese advisers, and the construction of an independent army.

The gulf between the viewpoints of the Japanese and Wang Ching-wei on these and similar details remains virtually as wide to-day as ever, it is asserted.—Reuter.

LEGAL ASPECT OF BLOCKADE

London, To-day.

Professor J. L. Brierley, in a broadcast talk, discussed the legal aspect of the British blockade of German exports as it affected neutrals.

German violation of the Declaration of Paris by the sinking of both Allied and neutral merchant ships regardless of the nature, ownership or destination of their cargoes, the violation of the Submarine Protocol by which she undertook as recently as 1936 not to sink merchant ships without assuring the safety of their crews, the violation of the Eighth Hague Convention which bound her not to lay mines without taking possible precaution for the security of peaceful shipping, rendered perfectly justifiable, according to international law, the British retaliatory action of seizing German exports.

GOOD LAW

Admittedly neutrals were adversely affected by the British Prize Court was laying down good law when, in similar circumstances, during the last war, it stated: "The right of retaliation is the right of a belligerent not a concession by a neutral. Retaliation was a legal right which could not always be exercised without affecting neutrals and for the law to lay down that in no circumstances must it do so would be to take away with one hand what the law had given with the other."

"It was the definite policy of the Germans to attack Britain through neutrals by illegally sinking neutral shipping to prevent them from trading with us. All that could be done was to ensure that the retaliatory action inflicted as little inconvenience as possible on neutrals. That certainly was being done in the present British retaliatory action. Under Order-in-Council, a neutral ship incurred no penalty but was merely required to discharge goods laden in a German port or which is of German origin.—British Wireless.

CANADIAN AIR OFFICERS IN ENGLAND

London, To-day.

An Air Commodore and two Group Captains of the Canadian Air Force have arrived in England to familiarise themselves with the working methods of the Royal Air Force.—Reuter.

Mrs. Campbell, of No. 156, Argyll Street, has reported the loss of her handbag and contents, stolen from her car which was parked outside her residence.

CHAIRMAN OF S.M.C. GUARDED

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Shanghai, To-day.

Following the attempt on the life of Mr. Godfrey Phillips, Secretary-General of the Shanghai Municipal Council, extraordinary precautions are being taken to guard Mr. Cornell S. Franklin, the American Chairman of the S.M.C.

Mr. Franklin is never allowed to be alone, and plainclothesmen follow him everywhere day and night.—Havas.

NEXT A.D.C. PLAY

For their first production of 1940, the A.D.C. have chosen Somerset Maugham's wittiest comedy, "The Circle," which is to be presented at the China Fleet Club for four nights, February 21—24 inclusive.

The play concerns the complications and reactions which ensue when Lady Catherine Champion-Cheney, who thirty years before gave up all "for love" and ran away with a married man, is held up as an awful example to her daughter-in-law Elizabeth, who is seriously thinking of doing the same. The situation is very amusingly worked out and the play is full of scenes and situations in which all the author's gifts for witty comedy and biting cynicism are seen at their best.

The cast contains a number of old Hong Kong favourites, including Helen Prior, who has been a stalwart stand-by of the Hong Kong A.D.C. for many years now; Cyril Champkin, in the part of a crochety and irritable old Peer, always having trouble with his false teeth and with original ideas on the sanctity of Bridge; and Winnie Cox, as Elizabeth. It will be remembered that Winnie Cox played with great distinction in a former production of the A.D.C., "Night Must Fall."

Both Smith-Wright has a small part, and among the newcomers is E. B. Teesdale, who is shaping very well in the part of a somewhat "tough" planter home on leave from the F.M.S.

All the proceeds will be devoted to the British War Organisation Fund.

PEIPING "GOVT.'S" BUDGET

Peiping, To-day.

The budget of the Japanese-sponsored provisional government has been increased to \$200,000,000 (Federal Reserve Bank currency) for the present fiscal year.—Reuter.

Mrs. Hanneson of No. 4, Felix Villas, while walking in Mount Davis Road about 6 p.m. yesterday, was attacked by a Chinese who attempted to snatch a brief case which she was holding. She struggled with the man and he ran away on hearing a car approaching.

Whilst playing on a vacant field opposite the Police Training School yesterday afternoon, nine-year-old Miss Marian Jong picked up six rounds of Mauser ammunition, which was later handed to the Police.

"The Shape Of Things To Come"

PREMIER'S SPEECH WINS APPROVAL IN FRANCE: CALL FOR NEW SACRIFICES

London, To-day.

WORLD-WIDE INTEREST is shown in Mr. Chamberlain's speech at Mansion House on Tuesday. His words of confidence that Britain is ready to face the grimmer struggle ahead meet with approval.

All the American papers print the text of the speech, and a typical comment is that of the "New York Times," which says:—"Mr. Chamberlain's speech crackled with determination to win the war, no matter what the cost."

Nevertheless, the paper continues, he was able to look ahead to the eventual problem of the next peace settlement. The real strength of Anglo-French unity would not be seen until the Nazi danger is destroyed. If, this time, the leaders of the people of Britain and France can live up to Mr. Chamberlain's hopes for an extension of Anglo-French unity, there will be reason to look forward "without dread to the shape of things to come."

The French press emphasizes the importance of Mr. Chamberlain's remarks on Anglo-French collaboration. In the course of a long article, "Petit Parisien" says:—"To oppose the forces of evil, Mr. Chamberlain summons the forces of good . . . for the fate of civilization is bound up with the success of the Allies."

ITALIAN COMMENT

Official circles in Italy say that the speech is yet another proof of the complete identity of views between the British and French Governments.

Most of the British newspapers emphasize Mr. Chamberlain's warning that greater sacrifices will have to be made if the war is to be won quickly. He showed determination and vision to tell the country what it is up against.

The "Yorkshire Post" says that all classes must expect some reduction in the standards of life, while the "News Chronicle" says that Britain needs an Economic Commander-in-Chief and an Economic General Staff.

COMPARABLE SACRIFICE

The "Daily Herald" says that the British worker classes have not refused, and will not refuse, to make sacrifices for freedom but demand that such sacrifices should be comparable and simultaneous from both wealth and poverty.—Reuter.

FAREWELL DINNER

London, To-day.

The Foreign Secretary and Lady Halifax gave a small farewell dinner party for the Brazilian Ambassador and Dona Gina Regis de Oliveira on Tuesday evening.—British Wireless.

NANKING CONFERENCE

Peiping, To-day.

Mr. Kita, Director of the North China Affairs Board, left yesterday for Nanking by air to attend to-day's conference of local directors and liaison officers of the Board.—Reuter.

NAZIS FAIL TO DRAW ADMIRALTY

London, To-day.

The "Manchester Guardian," commenting on the attempts of the German radio to suggest that the cruiser Exeter was sunk, says:

"They hope to extract from the Admiralty, for reassurance of the home public, a definite statement of the particular port in which she is resting after her encounter with a vessel of considerably higher gunpower."

"It is only proper to decline such plainly flourished invitations."

Further discussing the object of the German broadcasts, the leader says: "Some of it is nonsense which could only be accepted at face value by a people like the Germans so largely cut off from reliable sources of outside news, some is intended to extract information by provoking denial; all is intended to be of more value to the Germans than the English."

THOSE HAMBURG VOICES

"We have no objection at all," concludes the leader, "to a censorship which declines to argue with any of the various voices that operate from Hamburg."

"If those hearing them remember why they were sent forth, no further replies should be necessary."

Incidentally a statement was issued yesterday by the British Embassy in Tokyo: "It is authorised to state that H.M.S. Exeter is safe, but for obvious reasons her whereabouts cannot be disclosed."—British Wireless.

WRONG LOCAL COLOUR

Recently in a certain sector of the French front the Germans thought they would give a telling touch to the anti-British texts which they display on placards for the benefit of the poilus. They would appeal to the local patriotism of the troops in line against them, to the amour du terroir which is so notoriously strong among the French.

So placards were hoisted composed somewhat as follows:

Français du Nord, voulez-vous que vos fermes et vos prairies soient dévastées pour faire plaisir à l'Angleterre?

After a while an answering notice board rose from the French positions. It bore three words, "Sommes du Midi"—"We're from the South".

GREEK FINANCIERS IN LONDON

London, To-day.

Mr. A. Apostolides, Greek Minister of Finance, and Mr. K. Varvaressos, Governor of the Bank of Greece, have arrived in London for commercial negotiations.—British Wireless.

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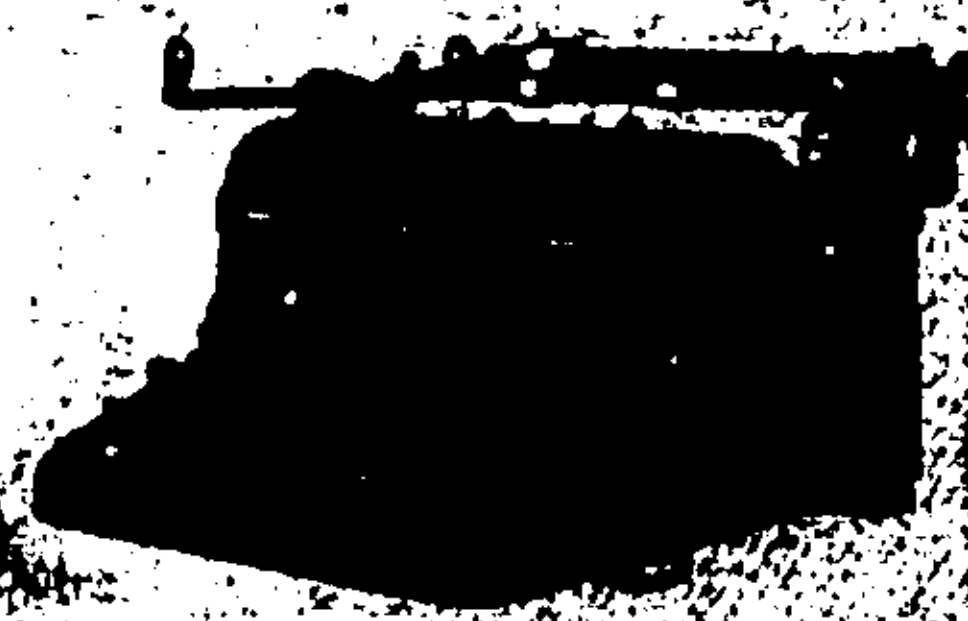
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KAY KYSER'S BAND, featuring GINNY SIMMS • HARRY BARBIT • SULLY MASON • ISH KAMBLE

"The College of Musical Knowledge" RKO RADIO Picture

TO-MORROW
QUEEN'S
AND
ALHAMBRA

OFF THE RECORD

By Ed Reed



"Your bumps indicate poor judgment in choosing a wife."

Here's Luck

EWO BEER

DETENTION OF EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Cairo, To-day.
The Premier, Mohammed Mahmoud Pasha, stated in Parliament yesterday that Germany was guilty of a dishonourable act in detaining Egyptian consular officials, although all German officials long ago had been permitted to return home from Egypt.—Havas.

NAZI ARMY MISSION IN MOSCOW

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Paris, To-day.

Political circles consider that the presence of the German military mission in Moscow (consisting of 20 picked officers) shows that the German-Soviet understanding extends into a military scheme.

They believe, however, that talk of an outright military alliance is premature.

It is thought the Nazi mission's first object will be to advise the Soviets how to conduct the Finnish campaign, which has showed the Red Army's many deficiencies, particularly in officers.

Reports allege that the Kremlin has even asked for German technical aid to offset the unfavourable results of the Finnish campaign.—Havas.

THE OLD AND THE NEW: TWO DIFFERENT VERSIONS IN GERMANY AND BRITAIN

London, To-day.

MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD, Secretary for the Colonies, broadcast to the Empire last evening in reply to Hitler's bombastic New Year message to the Nazi Party in which he declared the German battle was being waged against "the old powers of a decaying world."

Mr. Macdonald said, inter alia, that anyone wishing to learn the quality of Britain's strength must look not only at this island but beyond to all the corners of the earth where people were associated in happy union under the British Crown.

"There, in the proud array of the Dominions, these new nations yield nothing in youthful qualities to other people.

"Then there are India and Burma and two score countries of the Colonial Empire.

"Some of these peoples are old and some young, but under the benevolent rule of the Crown they are travelling along the road towards ever greater liberty.

"It is not against an old decrepit power that Hitler has hurled, in a gambler's throw, his obedient Nazi Germans but against a mighty young Commonwealth of Nations which is an invincible combination.

OLD AND NEW

"The present struggle is between the old system of force and the new system in which free and equal nations can live amicably and peacefully together.

"The British Dominions are a company of free nations living in permanent accord.

"That fact is the surest guarantee that victory will be ours." — Reuter.

MOSCOW CHANGES

Moscow, To-day.

It is announced that Lazare Kaganovitch, Commissar for the Aviation Industry, has been transferred to another post.

He is succeeded by Shakhurin. Kaganovitch is one of Stalin's closest and oldest collaborators, having joined the Communist Party in 1911.—Reuter.

U.S. MAY SUPPLY ALLIES WITH 1,000 PLANES A MONTH

Washington, To-day.

ALLIED PURCHASING AGENTS in the United States are rapidly negotiating orders for war-planes for 1940 and 1941.

The result is expected to be a flow of planes, particularly bombers, across the Atlantic, more than offsetting Germany's reputed air superiority.

WILD WEATHER IN TURKEY

Istanbul, To-day.

New snowstorms and avalanches are seriously hampering rescue work in districts stricken by the recent earthquakes, and lack of medical attention, cold and starvation are adding daily to the death-roll.

Even after a fortnight some villages are still marooned.

Taking moderate estimates, it is feared that the number of dead exceeds 35,000 and the injured over 20,000. — Reuter.

EMERGENCY DEFENCE PLANS

WASHINGTON, TO-DAY.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAS GENERALLY APPROVED PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S EMERGENCY DEFENCE OUTLAYS PROPOSING THAT CONGRESS PROVIDE \$287,000,000 FOR ARMY, NAVY AND COASTGUARD PURPOSES.

This represents a cut of about \$5,000,000 on the amount recommended by the Executive.

The appropriations approved provide for 518 aircraft, costing over \$25,000,000; for the Navy's neutrality patrol and also provide for increases in personnel totalling 22,000 for the Army, 41,000 for the National Guard, nearly 20,000 for the Navy and 6,000 for the Coast Guard.

It is reported that Allied agents told United States aviation circles that at least 10,000 more machines are needed from the United States within 18 months.

While officials are reticent, it is understood aviation circles consider the figure of 10,000 reasonably accurate.

Britain and France at present have 2,010 combat planes on order, and before the end of 1940 orders are expected to be completed for another 3,300 planes, which is about the limit of United States factory capacity.

However, by the beginning of 1941 United States factories will be able to supply the Allies with about 1,000 planes a month. — Reuter.

MITSUI TRADE DRIVE

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

TOKYO, TO-DAY.

MR. TADAHARU MUKAI, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MITSUI CONCERN, TOLD THE PRESS YESTERDAY THAT AS A RESULT OF THE EUROPEAN WAR "THE INDIAN, AUSTRALIAN AND SOUTH SEAS MARKETS HAD TO-DAY BECOME THE MISSION OF JAPANESE TRADE."

He added: "The Japanese Government therefore should slacken the excessive control of foreign trade, and even encourage it."


Mr. Mukai expressed confidence in the future improvement of Japanese-American trade relations. — Havas.

ORDERS FOR GERMAN GOODS CANCELLED

London, To-day.

The effect of the Allied blockade on Nazi exports is seen in information which has reached official circles in London of the cancellation of orders for German goods by neutral countries all over the world. — Reuter.

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MIRROR OF WORLD OPINION

DISCRIMINATION

"Directly and indirectly, Japan has discriminated against the United States. Direct discrimination has been practiced in Japan in favour of Manchukuo, Germany, Italy and most recently China. The most extensive discrimination has probably been in favour of Manchukuo, which according to Japanese theory is an "independent Empire," but according to America's legalistic concept, a part of the Chinese Republic. For example, imports of Manchurian pig iron—which were extensive up to 1935 but have been steadily shrinking ever since, probably to nil in 1939 and 1940—have been enjoying special favours by customs duty rebates. Manchurian shale oil has been granted preferential treatment in the purchases of oil by the Japanese Navy, at the expense of American and other foreign oil. Other Manchurian products have enjoyed, and continue to enjoy, similar preferential treatment in the matter of Japanese import licenses, despite excessive prices charged by their producers, as, for example, sulphate of ammonia and wood pulp. Japanese purchases of these products in the United States, not unimportant formerly, were completely discontinued until the European war cut off other supply sources. . . . Only now that Germany has involved herself in the Danzig 'Incident,' do Japanese leaders see a necessity to come to terms with America. Yet they refuse to realise that American-Japanese friendship is incompatible with Japan's present policies. Whatever may be the American Government's decision with regard to an embargo on exports to Japan, there is a strong case for retaliatory action against Japan's discriminatory treatment of American interests under the provisions of the American Tariff Act." — "Amerasia."

risks of not doing that. And clearly the liberal answer is along lines of economic opportunity for all nations of the world, precisely as, in the domestic field, it is along that line. We cannot have a world organised for unending economic war without having eventually a world engaged in military war.

Moreover, a world organised for permanent economic war, involving denial of the right to prosperity — creating exchange of goods, inevitably must force upon even us more and graver domestic problems, more and greater domestic regimentation, more and greater interventions by government to deal with internal imbalances. We are not immune from these world influences. They can crush us, crush our liberal system, if they be not themselves reversed.

The ultimate solvent of the problem of peace and of the inextricably related problem of mutually advantaging trade is still what it used to be—not totalitarianism but democratic processes; not economic autarchy but workable freedom of exchange; not passionate national tribalism but intelligent modification of the dogma of jealous sovereignty, not a backward trek to the self-sufficiency of a tribe whose horizons are a range of hills and a river too deep to wade, but an evolving recognition of the world community.

Every timid retreat we make from international co-operation finds us shortly dragged back by the destiny of mankind. Americans fleeing from all "entanglements" whose purpose is to mitigate nationalist frictions adopt the most certain way of entangling America in foreign affairs at the worst possible time and in the worst possible way, with the worst possible results for us and the world.—"Des Moines Register."

PUT THIRD TERM TO A VOTE?

Certainly a process whereby the American people are permitted, in effect, to choose, every four years, between only two men for the Presidency of the United States—and each of these two chosen by private organisations which in the main decide for themselves how their delegates should be selected—is not a democratic system.

Congress could and should pass in January next a law to govern the presidential preference primary 1940 election and thus make the national conventions mere ratifying institutions to conform to the existing state laws just as the electoral college meets to ratify the choice of the voters in the final election.

In the absence of a Presidential preference primary law, President Roosevelt should not run for a third term or even permit his name to come before the next national convention. There is only one effectual way of preventing such a nomination and that is for him to announce that if nominated he would not accept.

But should a presidential preference primary law be passed, and should Mr. Roosevelt win by ballot among all the voters of his own party, the breaking of the third term tradition would not be his decision at all. It would be the act of the Democratic Party itself. The American people as a whole would then be asked to pass judgment on what the Democratic Party and not one man had done.—David Lawrence in "United States News."

WILL ROOSEVELT REFUSE?

If the ritual requires that the President be given the opportunity to refuse a third term, the practical situation will at the same time compel him to refuse it. Such is the force of the tradition that the only man who could conceivably obtain a third term is one who convinced the country he did not want it. The effort to get a third term would convince the country that the man must not have it; it would be the proof that he was using the power of his office to perpetuate himself in office. That would surely split his own

BETTER ORDER

I can remember half-a-dozen wars. Yet I cannot think of one in which, from the very outset, there was such eagerness to discover how a better order of things might be built when it was over. Those who do not believe in a better order think despondently. These are the real "defeatists." Among the "common people," at any rate, they are very rare.—H. Wickham Stead.

party: it would certainly provide opposition with the greatest of all issues, namely, the defence of free institutions against personal government.

Last year when his party was split, his personal prestige at low ebb, and a bi-partisan coalition was working against him, I should imagine that he may have considered seriously making a fight for a third nomination. There were many indications that this was in his mind. But such a fight would never have gotten him a third election; it would have gotten him only a meager kind of revenge and the approval of Mr. Ickes. . . .

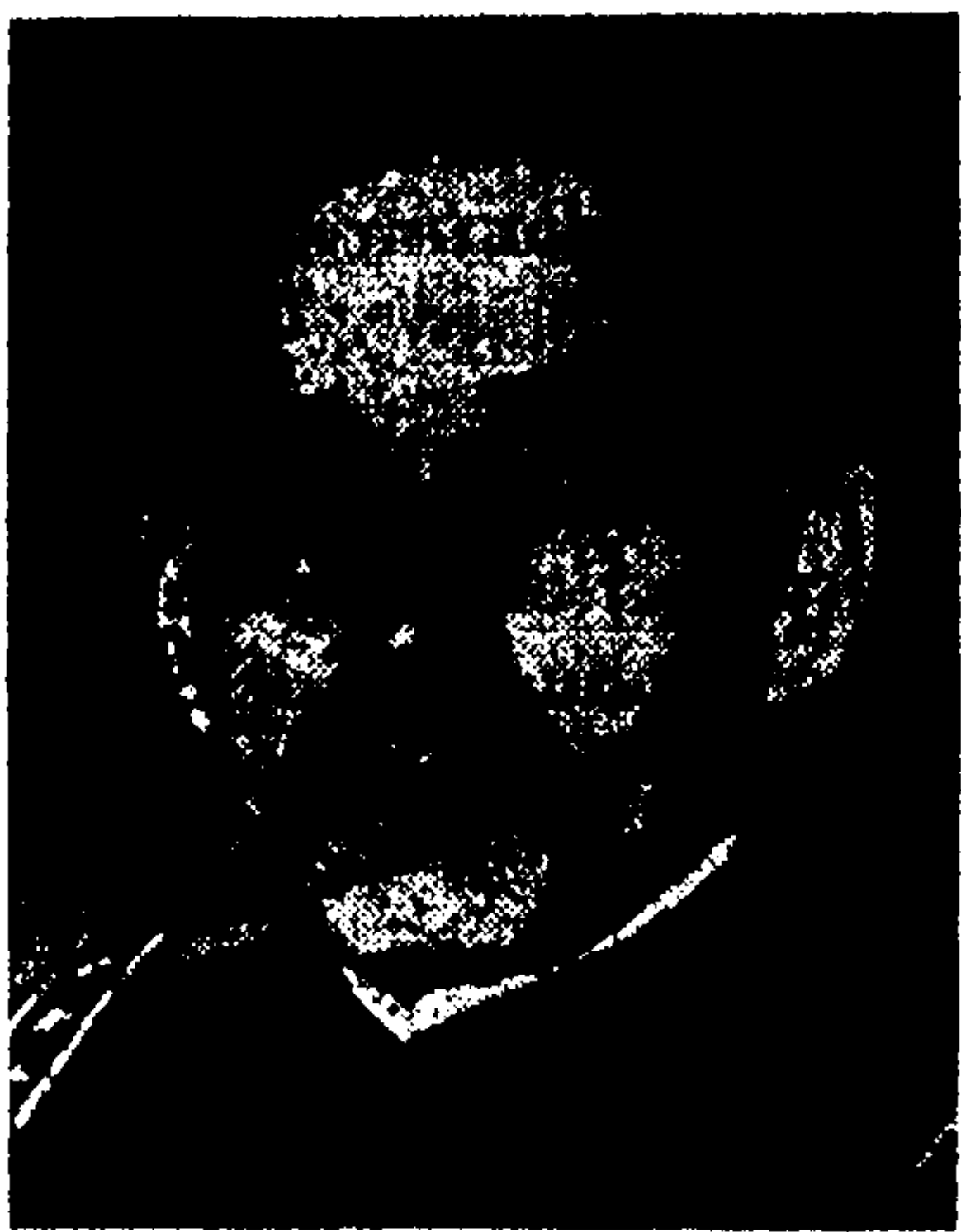
The popular confidence which he has been earning since he rose to the occasion of the war will grow greater as he holds himself firmly to the line

ISOLATIONISM

We cannot escape the consequences of war by any imaginable isolationism. We cannot, in any judgment, even escape actual involvement. The risks of pressing for other solutions than war are minor compared to the

and necessary corollary will be a renunciation of a third term, not in ambiguous language but in plain words like Washington's. — Walter Lippmann in the "New York Herald Tribune."

RUTHLESS AIR WAR ON DEFENCELESS SHIPPING



General Hata, whose resignation from the Japanese War Ministry has been rumoured. He is believed to be the key figure in the Japanese political crisis.

GEN. HATA KEY TO CABINET CRISIS

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

TOKYO, TO-DAY.
NEGOTIATIONS HAVE STARTED BEHIND THE SCENES FOR THE CONSTITUTION OF A NEW CABINET, THE WAR MINISTER, GEN. HATA, APPEARING TO BE MORE AND MORE THE KEY FIGURE OF THE SITUATION.

It is not yet known whether he would assume the Premiership himself as he is in active service but might entrust a personality close to him.

In any case he would avoid by all means to give the impression that Japan is now run by an Army Government but would endeavour to launch a new moderate Government. —Havas.

NAZI RAID PROVES COSTLY

PARIS, TO-DAY.
TWO GERMAN PATROL RAIDS ON TUESDAY WERE HALTED WITH HEAVY LOSSES TO THE ENEMY.

The German raiders came into contact with French patrols and there were brisk exchanges of rifle-fire and hand-grenades.

Due to heavy fogs, there was little air activity, save for a long reconnaissance flight by Nazi planes over North-West France. —Reuter.

ARTILLERY ACTIVITY

Paris, To-day.
Last night's French war communiqué stated there was artillery action and activity of reconnaissance units on both sides, especially east and west of the Vosges.

There has been a resumption of aerial activity. — Reuter.

SIR WILLIAM SEEDS IN ENGLAND

London, To-day.
Sir William Seeds, British Ambassador to Moscow, arrived back in England yesterday, accompanied by Lady Seeds. — Reuter.

London, To-day.
TWO GERMAN BOMBERS which attacked British shipping off the East Coast aimed 40 bombs at the British steamer Northwood (1,146 tons), but all missed.

There were no casualties among the crew, although the ship was swept with machinegun fire.

One of the Nazi planes was hit about the fuselage by the Northwood's Lewis-gun and immediately afterwards both machines made off.

When the vessel arrived in port yesterday the captain said the Nazi machines dropped 40 bombs, with more haste than accuracy.

The attack lasted 10 minutes. — Reuter.

SINKING OF THE "OAKGROVE"

London, To-day.

The loss of a British ship in the North Sea on Tuesday is all the bitter because of her earlier escape from air bombing during the Spanish War.

This was the Glasgow steamer Oakgrove, of 1,985 tons, which has been sunk by Nazi aircraft. All her crew have been saved, but her master is missing. He is Captain W. D. Falconer, who commanded the Oakgrove during the Spanish War.

At one time, she was held by the Spanish cruiser Almirante Cervera off Santander, but was rescued by a British cruiser and a British destroyer. — Reuter.

*** The Oakgrove, ex s.s. Needwood, was built at Sunderland in 1906. A vessel of almost 280 feet in length, she was owned by the Grove Line (Glasgow) Limited.

DANISH SHIPS STILL AFLOAT

The two Danish ships reported sunk on Tuesday in the North Sea are still afloat and it is now expected that they will be brought safely into port. — Reuter.

DEMANDS ON CONSCIENCE

London, To-day.

Authoritative quarters point out that the new Nazi methods of warfare—attacks by aircraft on unarmed merchantmen and defenceless fishingboats—"must make greater demands upon the conscience than upon the courage of the attackers."

"It is hard to believe that it can be anything but repugnant to

the officers and men ordered to carry them out."

COWARDICE OF GUNMAN

It is added: "Insistence on the presence of armed patrol craft, which is so often a feature of the German High Command communiqués, would suggest an unconvincing attempt to impart a military flavour to an operation which suggests the calculated brutality and cowardice of a gunman rather than the chivalry and courage of an airman." — Reuter.

THE BALKAN ENTENTE

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Bucharest, To-day.

The next meeting of the permanent council of the Balkan Entente, due at Belgrade on February 2, is assuming particular interest owing to the recent Ciano-Csaky talks in Venice.

Meetings of the Balkan Entente take place every year in a different Balkan capital. —Havas.

RUNNING AIR FIGHT OVER NORTH SEA

London, To-day.

THE AIR MINISTRY announces that an R.A.F. formation encountered long-range enemy fighters far out over the North Sea yesterday.

A running fight lasting half an hour followed.

One Messerschmidt 110 was seen to crash into the sea, and it is known that another was forced to land in Denmark.

One of our aircraft was lost but the remainder, after beating off the enemy, continued to the easterly limit of their reconnaissance and returned safely. — Reuter.

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PREMIER'S CALL FOR GREATER SACRIFICE

London, To-day.

THE PASSAGES IN THE Prime Minister's Mansion House speech singled out for comment in most newspapers are those in which Mr. Chamberlain declared that war would grow grimmer, and that greater sacrifices would have to be made because the increasing production of armaments must involve a decreasing production of civilian goods as well as a curtailment of all unnecessary imports.

Dealing with a suggestion heard in some quarters that the unemployed should be engaged to produce these civilian goods, he reminded his hearers that the figures of unemployment to some extent are misleading, for they include quite a number of people, perhaps half a million, who are merely passing from one job to another.

As to the rest, the situation is only temporary because the great bulk of the unemployed were going to be usefully employed and would be absorbed as we go on expanding the number of firms employed on armament works.

In the engineering industry alone, including in it aircraft engines, said the Premier, we shall want hundreds of thousands of men.

And even supposing we had ample supplies of labour, we should still have to curtail the imports of goods not necessary for the prosecution of the war in order to leave available our resources of foreign exchange and of shipping to purchase and bring home the things we cannot do without.

NEED FOR SACRIFICE

Dealing with the need for sacrifice, Mr. Chamberlain pointed out that already the wealthier classes had suffered very heavy reductions in their incomes and had been left very little prospect of increasing them again.

The Premier added that he did not say they had come to the end of the demands on them but it was not possible for them alone to solve the problem of how to reduce the consumption of unnecessary articles because two-thirds of the consumption of the people of the country was by those who have only small incomes. Therefore, it was necessary that they also should make their sacrifices.

WAGES AND COSTS

"I do not mean to imply that there must be no increase of wages but I do say that it would be a mistake to tie up wages to the cost of living which in the end can benefit no one because it could only give a violent impetus to the vicious spiral of alternately rising prices and wages and that is a thing that all of us want to avoid."

Asking what was to be done to win and if possible to shorten the war, Mr. Chamberlain went on:

"We must save, we must control imports, we must do without commodities that are not necessary, we must, if required, ration them in or-

CHINA OUTLOOK NOT WITHOUT HOPE

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Shanghai, To-day.

"It is not unreasonable to hope, if peace is restored in the Far East, China will be sharing in the business prosperity which neutrals enjoy at times when their belligerent neighbours are devoting a large part of their productive capacity to the manufacture of war weapons."

"Thereby, China will go far to repair the ravages of the last two-and-a-half years," declared Sir Herbert Phillips, retiring British Consul-General, at a reception at the Shanghai Club organised by the British Chamber of Commerce.

Sir Herbert remarked that while the outlook in China was still obscure it was not without hope.

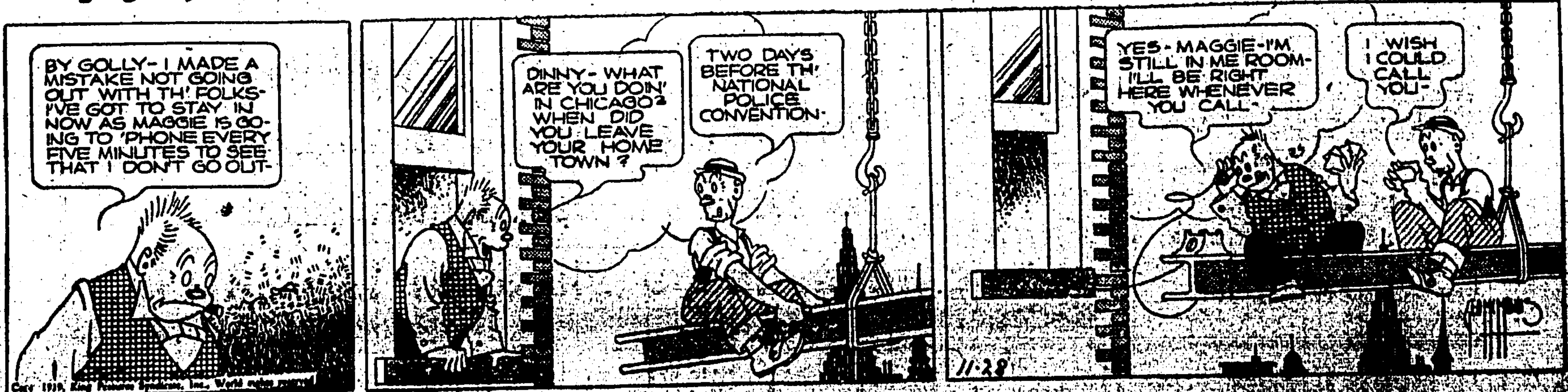
Sir Herbert recalled that he arrived in Peiping 42 years ago as a student interpreter.—Havas.

der that all may share and share alike.

"What I want the country to realise is that the war is going on every day although in a form which is unfamiliar and that every restriction which they are asked to accept is just one part of the general plan for securing the victory in the shortest possible time.—British Wireless.

Bringing Up Father

By George McManus





There were happy scenes at London stations when men of the British Expeditionary Force, arrived home from France for Xmas. Here is a happy study of men of the B.E.F. boarding a bus at the station. (Copyright, Fox).

CSAKY TALKS WITH COUNT CIANO

BERLIN, TO-DAY.
ACCORDING TO A BUDAPEST DESPATCH TO THE OFFICIAL GERMAN NEWS AGENCY, REPORTS THAT COUNT CSAKY (HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER) IS RETURNING TO ITALY SHORTLY TO CONTINUE THE VENICE DISCUSSIONS ARE CATEGORICALLY DENIED IN AUTHORITY HUNGARIAN QUARTERS. — REUTER.

COMPLETE HARMONY

Budapest, To-day.
Count Csaky, Hungarian Foreign Minister, has sent a note to Count Ciano, Italian Foreign Minister, in which he stresses "the complete harmony of our points of view on the maintenance of peace in the Danube Basin." — Reuter.

FRENCH SHIP FEARED A TOTAL LOSS

London, To-day.
The French steamer Monatuban (4,191 tons) went aground on the North-east coast of Britain on Tuesday, and it is feared she has broken her back.

The crew are safe.
The captain and three of the crew remained on board, and a lifeboat took off the remaining 39. — Reuter.

GERMANY'S PROBLEMS IN JAPAN

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

SHANGHAI, TO-DAY.
IT IS RELIABLY LEARNED THAT GERMAN TRADERS IN JAPAN ARE DAILY EXPERIENCING GROWING DIFFICULTIES DUE TO GERMANY'S IMPOSSIBILITY TO GET FOREIGN CURRENCY TO PAY FOR PURCHASES ABROAD.

Apparently the Japanese are drawing a difference between prewar and wartime transactions; the latter are not included in the compensation scheme and, therefore, cannot be settled through frozen German assets in Japan.

An important problem has also been raised by the payments of harbour duties of German ships marooned in Japanese ports and foodstuffs for the crews. — Havas.

WANG TROOP DISARMED

The Shanghai correspondent of the "Ta Kung Pao" reports that the Japanese military disarmed the "Salvation Corps" in Nantao on Tuesday afternoon. Many escaped on hearing that the Japanese were coming to disarm them, but the Japanese managed to round up over 50 escapees.

The "Corps" was under the control of Wang Ching-wel.



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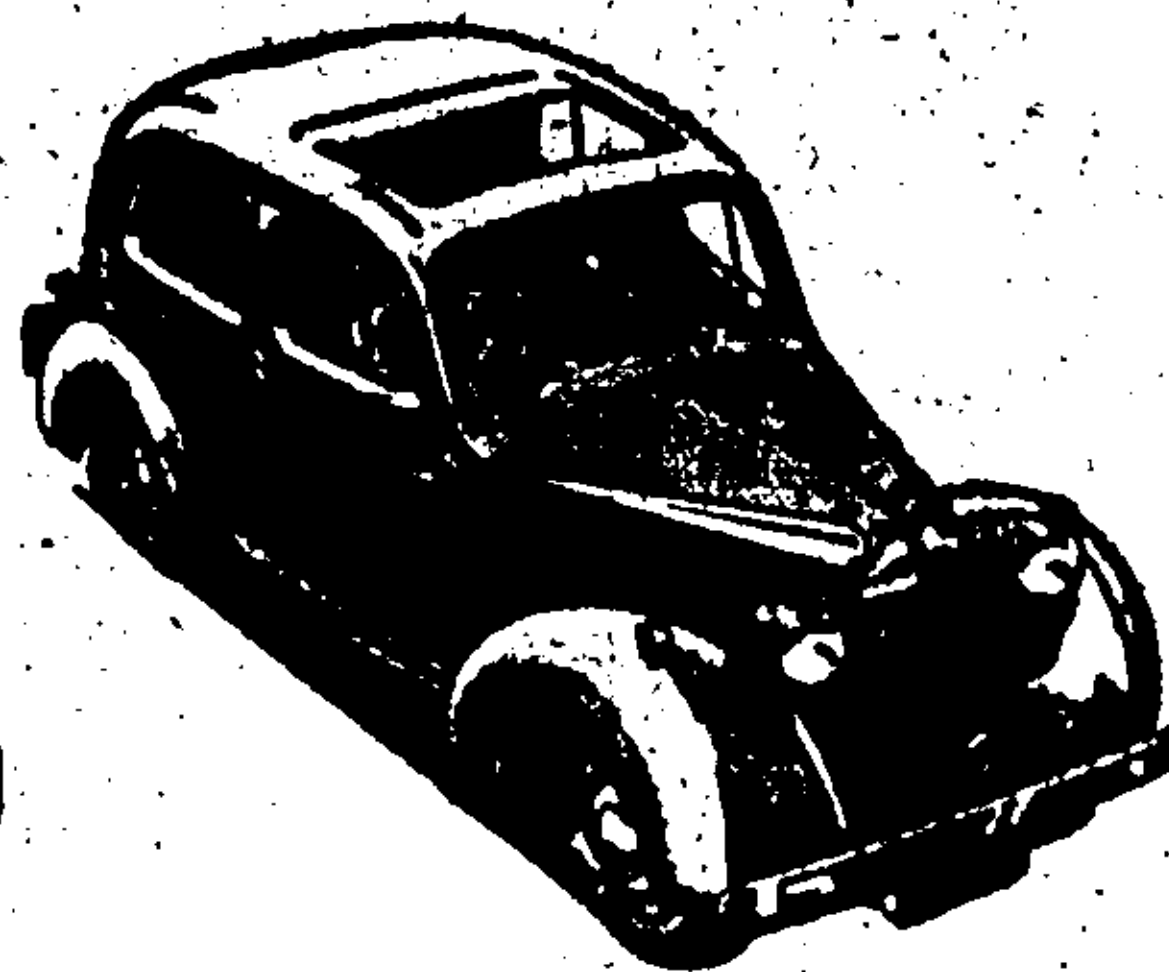
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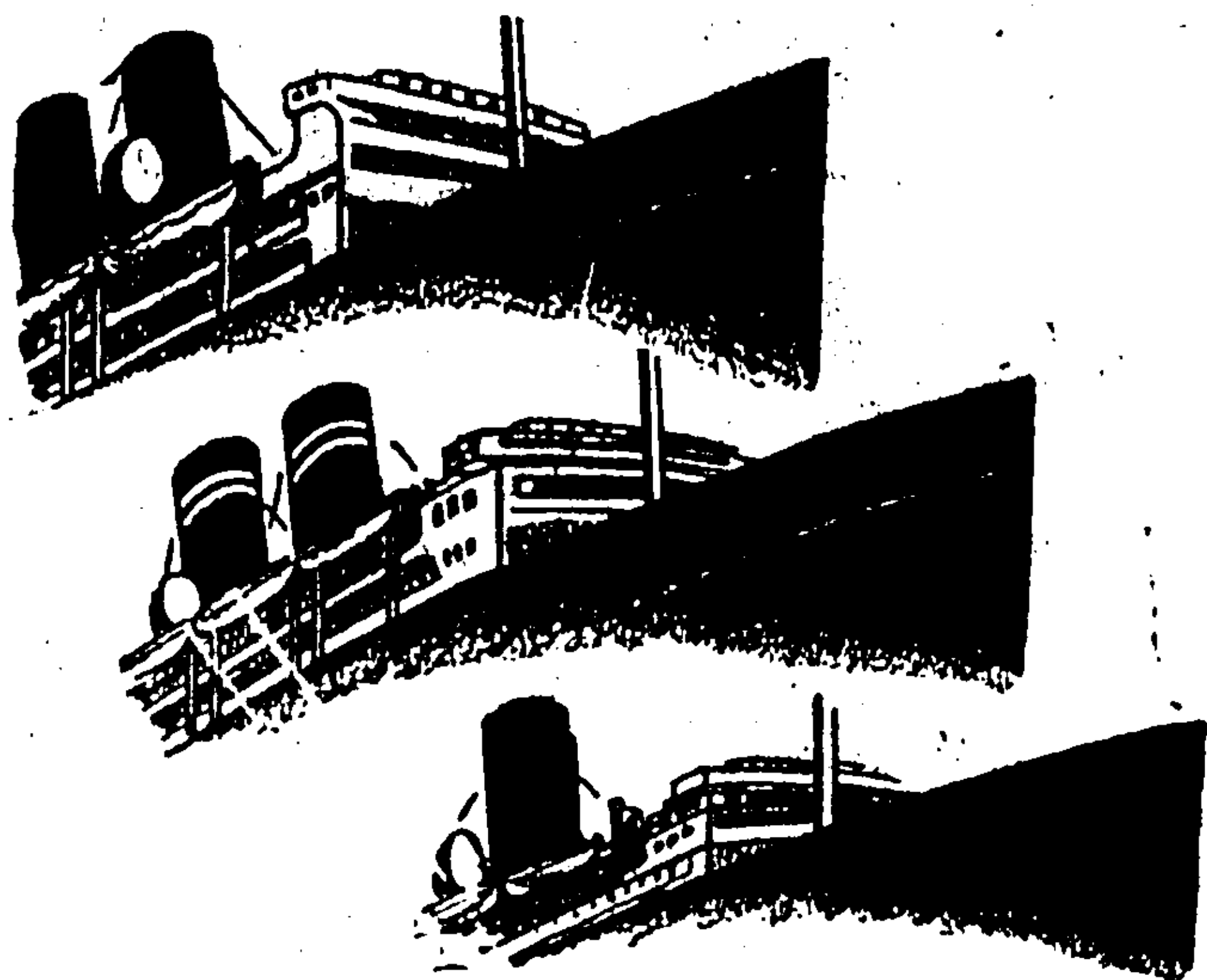


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BALLET DISPLAY SUCCESS

Yesterday evening, the George Goncharoff School of Dance presented its annual display of ballet with a programme which was very well received by a large and enthusiastic audience.

The quality of the individual performances was as varied as the type of dances presented—and these ranged from real ballet numbers to tap dances. Several of the artistes were really excellent; others were — let us be kind, and say amateurish.

In the first category, Miss Pat Pasco was perhaps the best, in a Hungarian dance, and partnered by Goncharoff himself in a delightful "Romance," to the music of Eric Coates.

Also in the first category is Miss Ellen Ford, in a Spanish dance, a Bolero, and in "Pastoral," one of the lovely dances in the "Springtime Suite," the ballet music to which was written by Eric Coates, one of England's leading composers.

Other first-class performances were given by Laureen Clemo, Claire van Wylick, Betty Lee, Ann Mansfield, Irene Artuh, Peggy Stoneman and Peggy Scotcher.

By far the most noticeable fault, as a whole, was the fact that the dancers, far from entering into the spirit of their numbers and giving life to them, were merely going through routines in time to the music. Few of them had even a small spark of inspiration; noticeable exceptions to this criticism among the minor performers were Miss Clemo, Miss van Wylick, Miss Lee and, in particular, Miss Artuh (especially in the Rachmaninoff Prelude number).

The "orchestral" side of the programme was unfortunate. Although Eric Porges performed wonders with the piano, he was playing solo, with the result that this combined with the woodenness of some of the dancers to give one the impression of rehearsal.

On the other hand, while the gramophone music via a loudspeaker was, orchestrally speaking, more satisfying and enabled one to appreciate the interpretative dances more, yet one missed the guiding hand of a conductor keeping a watchful eye on the dancers; the latter had to dance in strict time to the music, with no opportunity for private interpretation and at times music and dancers went their own sweet way.

The decor of the two ballets was simple but effective. That of the "Springtime Suite" was particularly well done—a bare stage, with a flight of steps and a silver-paper-and-cellophane tree in the background, changes of light being used for the various "scenes." The costuming, too, was very effective.

With all its defects—and what ama-

ROOSEVELT AND PLIGHT OF FINLAND

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Washington, To-day.
President Roosevelt announces that he is likely to address Congress next week on the question of assistance for Finland. He added that he was studying the question with competent officials.—Havas.

COLUMBUS CREW DECISION

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

New York, To-day.
All members of the crew not of conscription age belonging to the Nazi liner Columbus, which was scuttled by her captain on December 19, will return to Germany via San Francisco. Those who are of conscription age will be interned on Ellis Island until a solution of the problem of how to repatriate them on neutral ships.—Havas.

BY "SECRET" ROUTES

Washington, To-day.
The United States Department of State announces that the crew of the scuttled Nazi liner Columbus, who have been detained on Ellis Island, will be sent home to Germany "by secret routes" within a few days.—Reuter.

JAPANESE LOSSES IN KWANGTUNG

Shiukwan, To-day.
The Japanese who fell back to the Tsengshing-Tsungfa sector are retiring further.

Chinese troops are pushing toward Tsengshing, while guerillas are harassing the Japanese around Tsengshing and Tsungfa.

Serious losses were inflicted upon Japanese at Shekkong, about 12 miles east of Tsungfa.—Central News.

teur show is free of them?—the performance by the Goncharoff School of Dance is one worthy of patronage by all with any pretensions to taste and art in Hong Kong. Talking about defects; there is a delightful little "tot," who does everything wrong so charmingly that the number, a chorus scene, got a well-deserved encore.—A.E.G.

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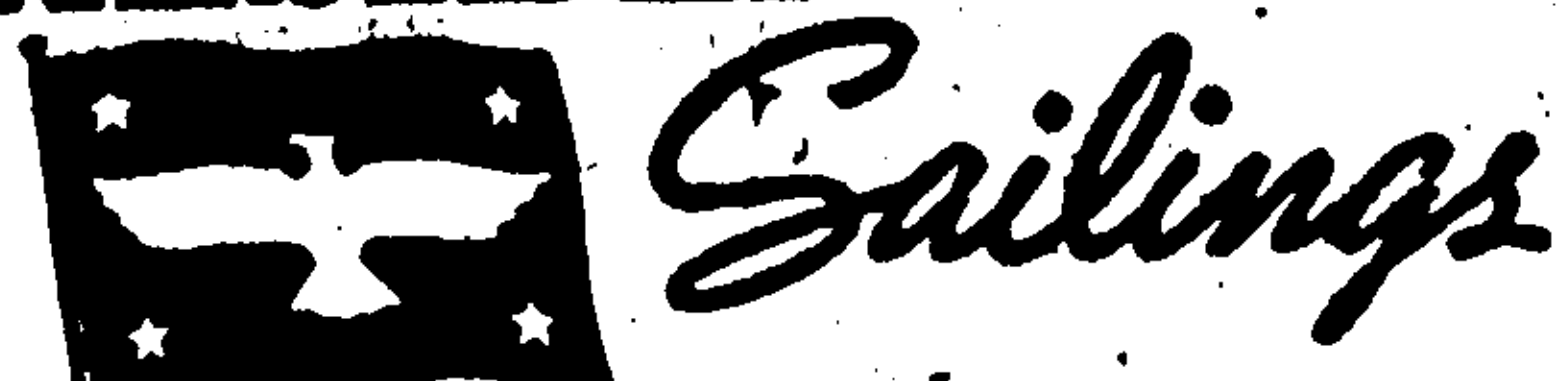
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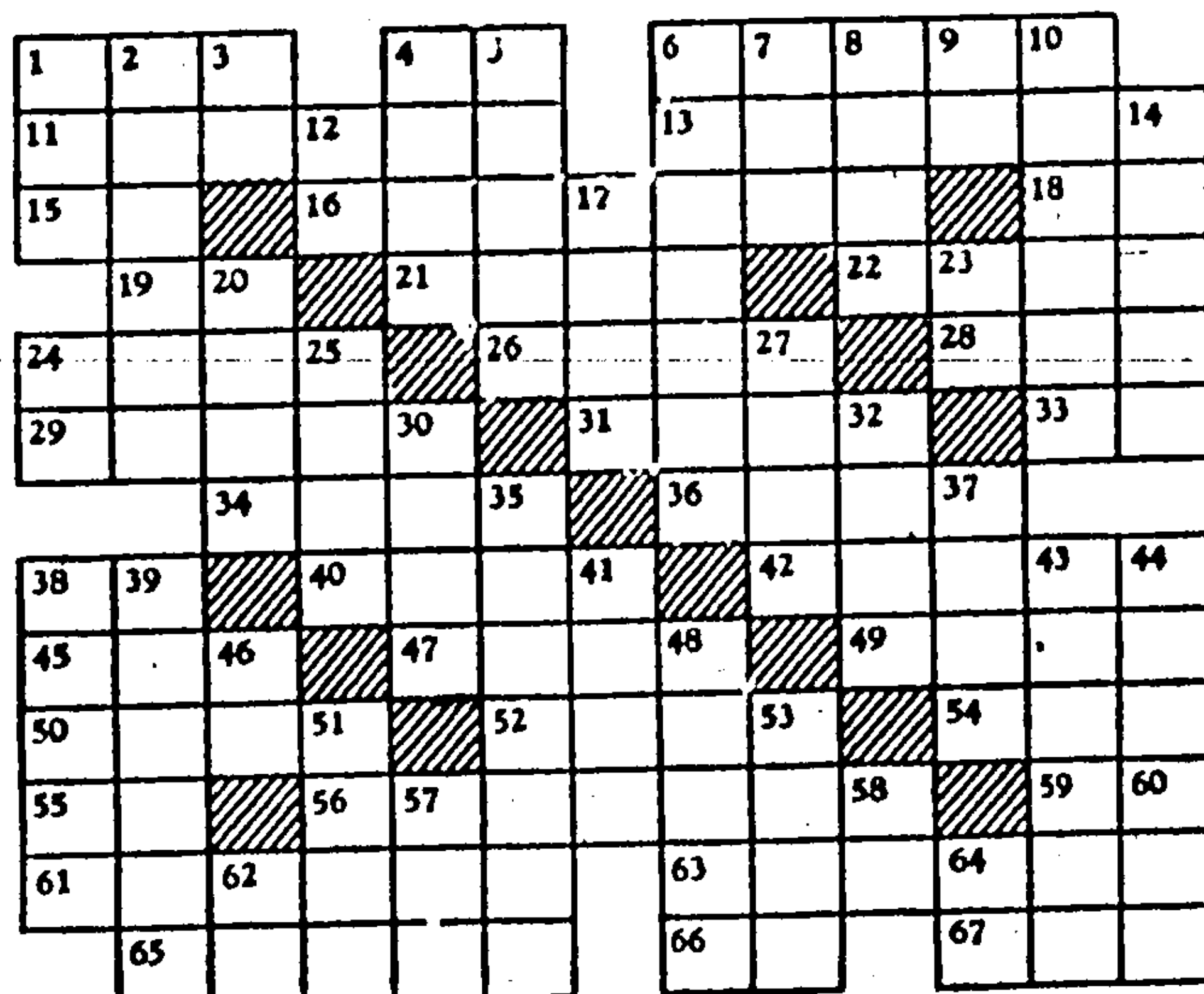
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- 1 Hawaiian wreath
- 4 Parent
- 6 Lines roof
- 11 Foreign
- 13 Highly decorated
- 15 Preposition
- 16 Pertaining to sea
- 18 Hawkheaded god
- 19 Sacred word
- 21 Goddess of discord
- 22 Vehemence
- 24 Joyous
- 26 Edge of cliff
- 28 Goddess of mischief
- 29 Willow
- 31 Plant cutting
- 33 One
- 34 Legal paper
- 36 To pierce
- 38 To satisfy
- 40 Bakery products
- 42 Sash
- 45 Goddess of harvest
- 47 To prohibit
- 49 Extent
- 50 To spring

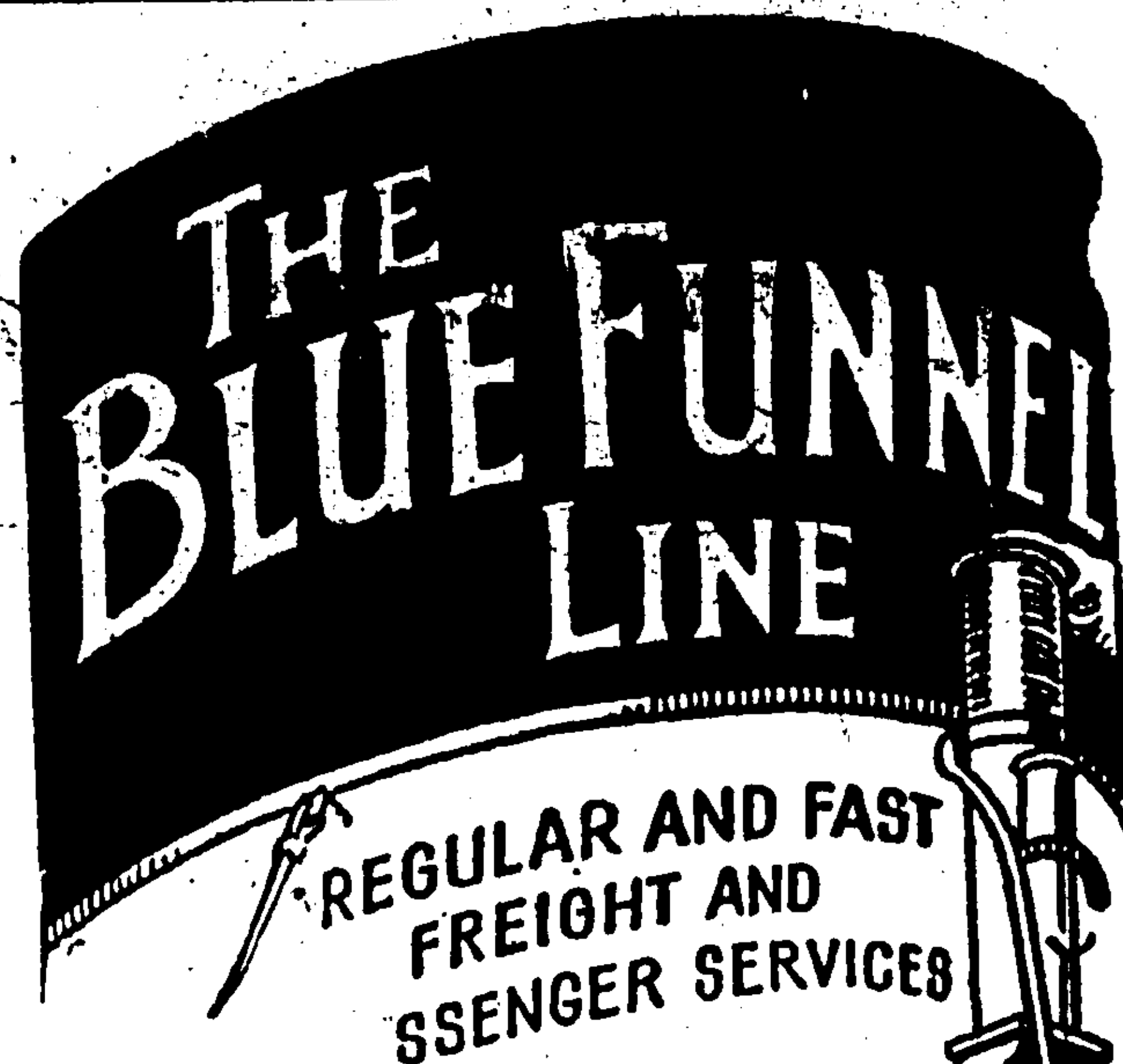
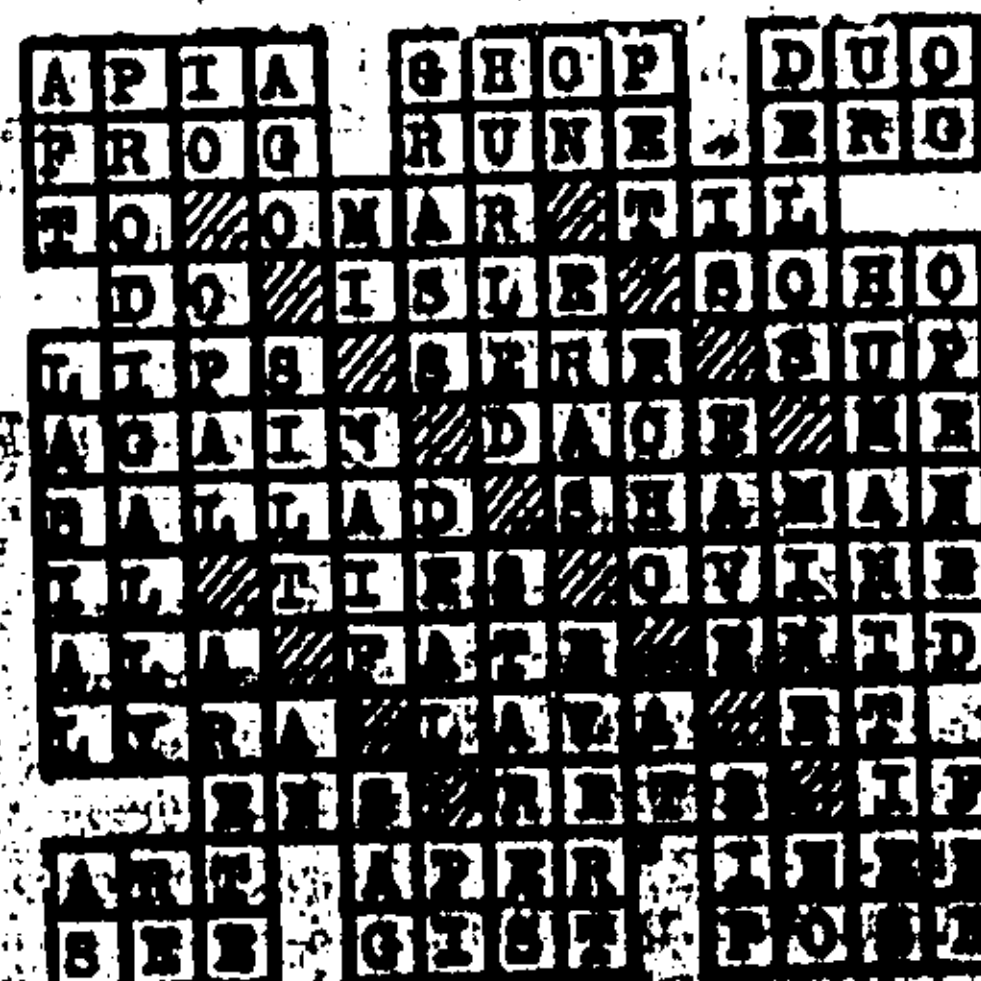
- 52 Norse explorer
- 54 Symbol for sodium
- 55 Type measure
- 56 Inner secret
- 59 Likewise
- 61 Stage signal
- 63 Vibration
- 65 Is fond
- 66 Whirlwind
- 67 Emmet

VERTICAL

- 1 Meadow
- 2 Magnifies
- 3 Butterfly
- 4 Indian money
- 5 Sour
- 6 British securities
- 7 Silkworm
- 8 Measure of length

9 French article

- 10 Layers
- 12 Preposition
- 14 Eroded
- 17 Gives vent to
- 20 Servant
- 23 Babylonian deity
- 24 Prizefight
- 25 Abstruse
- 27 Humorists
- 30 Brazilian money
- 32 South American rodent
- 35 Discovers
- 37 Storehouse
- 38 Gratuities
- 39 Expanded
- 41 Shore bird
- 43 Intelligence
- 44 Note of scale
- 46 Symbol for samarium
- 48 Piebald
- 51 To gasp
- 52 To preserve
- 57 Female ruff
- 58 Pronoun
- 60 Worthless
- 62 Negative
- 64 Parent

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FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY

SECOND WEEK OF JANUARY

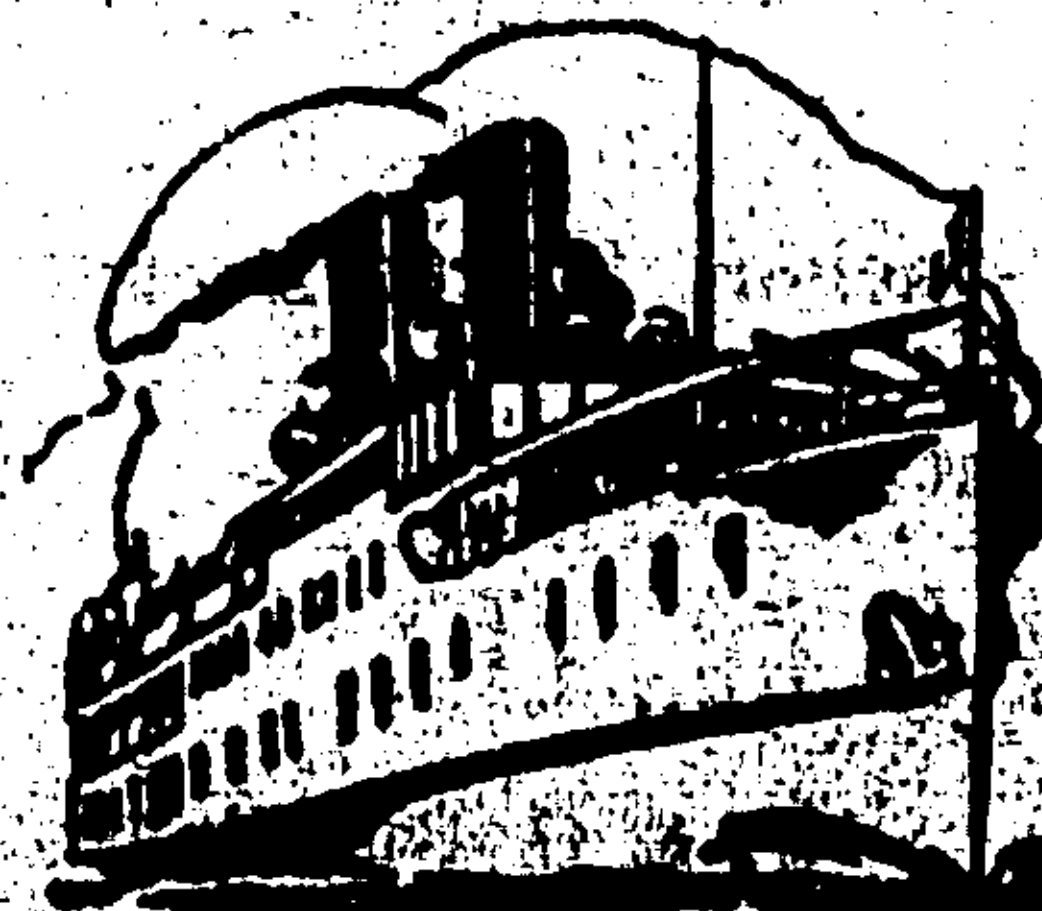
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ARMY CRICKET

BOWLERS ON TOP

Royal Corps of Signals beat Royal Army Service Corps by 64 runs in a friendly cricket match played at Sookunpoo yesterday.

Bowlers had a good afternoon, Green of R.A.S.C. taking 8 for 56 and Lees and Murphy of Signals returning analyses of 4 for 33 and 5 for 22, respectively.

ROYAL SIGNALS

Bedford, b Green	2
Pitcher, b Green	9
Whatman, c Patterson, b Green	28
Murphy, c Shorthouse, b Cooper	7
Lees, lbw., b Green	35
Lithauer, c Cooper, b Green	18
Medford, b Green	2
Copsey, b Govier	13
Love, not out	7
Carroll, c Dart, b Green	5
Hitchinson, b Green	0
Extras (B1, LB1)	2

Total 128

Bowling Analysis

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Green	11	2	56	8
Dart	8	0	32	0
Cooper	4	0	34	1
Govier	1	0	4	1

R.A.S.C.

Patterson, c Bedford, b Lees	8
Cooper, b Murphy	0
Cook, lbw., b Murphy	12
Benford, b Murphy	0
Govier, b Lees	11
Walton, c and b Lees	20
Green, c Whatman, b Lees	0
Shorthouse, c Pitcher, b Bedford	2
Dart, b Murphy	4
Mann, b Murphy	0
Theakes, not out	8
Extras (NB1)	1

Total 66

Lees bowled a no-ball.

Bowling Analysis

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Lees	6	0	35	4
Murphy	6	1	22	5
Bedford	1	0	8	1

C. C. C. JUNIORS

The following have been selected to represent Craigengower Cricket Club in a 2nd. Division League match against Army on Saturday, commencing at 2.00 p.m. sharp, on the Army ground, Sookunpoo:—B. R. Iranee (Capt.), N. Broadbridge, A. H. Es-mail, A. B. Hamson, A. Hung, C. W. Lam, J. W. Leonard, T. Lock, A. M. Omar, W. K. Way and J. L. Young Saye.

Scorer—W. Broadbridge; Umpire—E. Zimmern.

DR. LI KI-FONG CAUTIONED

Dr. Li Ki-fong, of No. 1, Marsh Road, was before Mr. R. A. D. Forrest this morning, charged with unlawful possession of poisons and possession of morphine.

Detective Sub-Inspector W. N. Darkin said accused's premises were raided by the Revenue Department on Monday, and the poisons were found inside a cupboard.

Concerning the charge of possession of morphine, he asked the Court to withdraw it, as no poison was contained in the mixture.

Mr. Alfred Y. Hon, pleading guilty, said his client obtained his degree in a Berlin University in 1921. He practised in Berlin for a year, and went to Canton in 1922, where he served Dr. Sun Yat-sen. He later served General Chiang Kai-shek in Whampoa. He was Dean and Professor of Medicine in various universities in Shanghai and held many positions in the Chinese Government. He returned to Canton as Principal of the Mental Hospital, and then came to the Colony in 1938 during the fall of the city. He had no intention of practising in the Colony.

Mr. Hon suggested that the poisons be handed over to the Police until his client was authorised to be in possession of it, or until he leaves the

TROUBLES IN A SILK STORE

AT THE SUMMARY COURT HIS MORNING VICTOR DE DODWELL, A JEWELLER, SUED THE PROPRIETOR OF JUBILEE SILK STORE FOR THE SUM OF \$632.86 BEING AMOUNT DUE FOR SALE OF GOODS ON HIS BEHALF AND FOR THE COST OF GOODS IN HIS POSSESSION.

The case was heard before the Puisne Judge, Mr. Justice R. E. Lind-sell. Plaintiff was represented by Mr. C. A. S. Russ and Mr. M. A. Silva represented defendants.

A counter claim for \$105, rent of part of premises at No. 31 Nathan Road, ground floor, was made by the defendant.

Mr. Russ said his client was a jewellery dealer and in April rented part of defendant's premises. Plaintiff's business entailed long absence from the shop as he went on board ship to sell his goods. Everything went well till August when defendant suggested that he sell plaintiff's goods during his absence and that he receive five per cent. commission and that plaintiff continue renting his place.

This was in August. At the end of the month, the accounts were properly made out and found correct.

The next month trouble arose between the parties and plaintiff received notice to quit. On October 18, Mr. Russ was instructed to write for a statement of accounts, the payment of money due and the return of stock in defendant's possession.

On October 16, defendant wrote to plaintiff that his rent was overdue, that in spite of notice to quit, he had not been ejected and that defendant intended to hold plaintiff's goods until rent was paid.

This Mr. Russ said was not lawful. To the letter by Mr. Russ, defendant, through Mr. Silva, replied that defendant had never made any arrangement with plaintiff for the sale of his goods, had never sold anything and that there was no jewellery in his possession. He counter claimed for \$105 for rent due.

On Tuesday, Mr. Russ received a letter from Mr. Silva saying that plaintiff had not taken away his goods from defendant's store, that his client was always willing to let him have his property, and tendering delivery of imitation jewellery which he asked Mr. Russ to check up.

The case is proceeding.

ACCIDENT SEQUEL

Lieut. Thomas Parkinson, 51, Q.M. of the Volunteers was again in Court this morning on a charge of unlawfully killing Wong Chiu-lan whilst driving his motor-car No. 556 along Bonham Road, near Breezy Point, on December 23.

Mr. D. L. Strellet appeared for the defence.

Inspector Saunders asked for a remand of one week and February 6 and 7 were provisionally fixed for the hearing of the case.

THE COTTAGE CLUB

The paper-hunt on Saturday, will start from near Lok Ma Chao Police Station at 3.30 p.m.

Club ponies will be sent to the start and a draw for ponies will be made on the spot. Riders of privately-owned ponies are requested to make their own arrangements with regard to the sending of their ponies to the meet.

Motor-car transport will be provided from the Cottage Club at 3 p.m. and transport back to the Club will be arranged after the finish of the paper-hunt.

TREASURE IN TRANSIT

A large number of gold bars, representing a large sum of money, in transit to an undisclosed destination, were landed from a steamer from Europe to-day.

Defendant was cautioned, and the suggestion was approved.

REAL LIFE DETECTIVE TRIUMPHS

CURIOUS CLUE IN THE CRIPPEN CASE

In January, 1910, Dr. Hawley Harvey Crippen and his wife, who had been Belle Elmore, a music hall artist, gave a dinner party at their home in Hilldrop Crescent, London. The host was an American who had gone to England to practice his profession. Many of the guests at the dinner were of the theatrical world. It was a success, but it developed later that it was a farewell party to the unfortunate Mrs. Crippen.

No one over saw her after that night.

To inquirers Crippen said that Belle had gone on a visit to the United States. In June of the same year he announced that she had died in the States and was buried there. That statement might have been accepted were it not for the fact that he was seen constantly in the company of Ethel Le Neve, his secretary. One day a friend of Mrs. Crippen saw them in a box in a music hall. Ethel was wearing the earrings of the dead woman.

Trifles often have grave consequences. The friend who had caught



to justice. Descriptions of the fugitives had been sent broadcast. This included wireless messages in order to catch them if they happened to be on vessels then on the high seas. One of the first to get the alarm was Captain Kendall of the steamship Montrose, then on its way from Antwerp to Quebec. The captain happened to have a copy of an illustrated English magazine which contained pictures of Dr. Crippen and Miss Le Neve. He sat in his cabin and studied the prints carefully. Then he made a survey of his passengers.

* * *

By the process of elimination he discarded all but six persons. And it happened that each of these three couples dined regularly at the Captain's table. They included the Rev. James Robinson and son, Francis Hayes and his daughter, and a Mr. and Mrs. John Smith. Captain Kendall was greatly attracted by a partial resemblance of one of the men to Dr. Crippen. He went back into his cabin and getting out the English periodical, gave a second scrutiny to the picture of Dr. Crippen. He covered the lower half with a bit of paper and the result made him gasp with satisfaction.

But it was not enough. One afternoon all of the six suspects were standing by the rail of the ship while a terrific gale was blowing. The captain, standing on the bridge of the Montrose observed them attentively. Suddenly the gale blew the coattails of one of the passengers aside and what Captain Kendall saw convinced him that the wanted man was aboard. He sent a wireless to Inspector Dow saying that Crippen was on the ship and to meet him at Quebec.

After the ship had docked and the tireless detective had come aboard Captain Kendall pointed to the Rev. James Robinson and exclaimed.

"There is your man. And the boy with him is Miss Le Neve."

It was a startling accusation but it proved to be true. Miss Le Neve fainted, and being taken into her cabin by the stewardess stood revealed as a girl disguised as a boy. What followed is history. Dr. Crippen was taken back to England, tried and hanged. Miss Le Neve was released because there was absolutely no evidence to connect her with the crime.

But she had unwittingly been the cause of handing Dr. Crippen over to the police. The gale of wind that had blown her coattails aside had revealed to the captain that her coat and trousers were fastened with a safety pin!

CANADA MAY ACQUIRE AMERICAN SHIPS

New York, To-day.

Two members of the Canadian Shipping Board have arrived from Ottawa.

They will discuss the possibility of acquiring American ships for the transport of Canadian goods. — Reuter.

ARMY YEN IN FALSE BOTTOMS

THE POLICE DISCOVERED \$54,515 IN JAPANESE MILITARY NOTES YESTERDAY WHEN THEY BOARDED A SHIP, BOUND FOR SWATOW, AND SEARCHED THE CHINESE PASSENGERS' LUGGAGE.

The money was found concealed in false bottoms of the suitcases of two Chinese passengers who had come to the Colony about a month ago from Shanghai.

After questioning, the men were allowed to continue their voyage to Swatow where, it was learned, they intend to set up a business.

Both men were natives of Chao-chow (Chao-An).

REVOLVER STOLEN

Chief Inspector W. H. Nolloth, of the Shamshulpo Police Station, reported last night the theft of his revolver which was loaded with six bullets.

The theft took place in the afternoon, the thief also taking \$12 in money and a wrist watch.



When climbing the social ladder never look for a helping hand from those higher up.

PRINCESS ALICE

London, To-day.

The Queen has approved the appointment of Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, to be Commandant-in-Chief of the Women's Transport Service.—British Wireless.

By
GEORGE BARTON

a glimpse of the little secretary in borrowed gems was furious. It made her do what she had been reluctant to do before. She went to Scotland Yard and told the officials there she was convinced that Belle Elmore had met with foul play. Chief Inspector Dow took the case in hand, and if there ever was a detective with the determination of a bulldog it was this same man.

* * *

In less than a week he had unearthed the mutilated remains of Belle Elmore from the cellar of the Hilldrop Crescent house. But when he went to arrest Dr. Crippen he was chagrined to find that he had suddenly disappeared Miss Le Neve was also conspicuous by her absence.

The story of the Crippen tragedy is well known, but what is not so familiar is the tale of the curious clue by which the culprit was brought

HER KNEES SWELLED UP LIKE PUDDINGS

To Go Upstairs was Agony

There is nothing in which rheumatism is a greater handicap than in doing ordinary household duties—kneeling, stooping, running up and down stairs. How to overcome that handicap, and banish rheumatic aches and pains for good, is the subject of the following letter:—

"I have been taking Kruschen Salts for three months, and am still taking the daily dose. When I started, I had rheumatism in both knees. They were very swollen—just like puddings. I could not rise from a chair without assistance, I could not kneel, and to go upstairs was agony. Now I can run upstairs and kneel as much as I like. My age is 37, I am 5 ft. 10 ins. in height, and weigh 13 stone, so you might guess my legs have a weight to carry. I have just bought another bottle of Kruschen. Since I have taken it, I can work like a horse."—(Mrs.) H.S.

Two of the ingredients of Kruschen Salts are the most effectual solvents of uric acid known to medical science. Other ingredients of these Salts have a stimulating effect upon the kidneys, and assist them to expel the dissolved uratic needles through the natural channel.

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BADMINTON

RECREIO BEAT KING'S

Big Upset In "B" Division Match Last Night

CLUB "A" JUST WIN

Club "A", led 6-5 at the interval, beat 8th Heavy Regiment, R.A., by a goal and a try (8 points) to two tries (6 points) in a Rugby match at the Valley yesterday.

Indiscriminate kicking featured the game, which was played at quite a fair pace. Outstanding players were Richardson and Redman at forward for Club, though the former was inclined to "hack" more than once and later played threequarter. Stoker showed up in the loose and Burford hooked well in the first half, though the ball was not heeled as quickly as it might have been. Lavalie showed he has pace in two nice runs, and if only he would let himself go when in possession he would prove more than a useful threequarter. At present any defender knows that he is going to pass to anyone in support rather than make a dash for it. Wilson had a gruelling afternoon, but came back for more.

Thornhill made his first appearance since the Club trials and Roscoe was out for them for the first time since his injury.

Richards, Army-wing three-quarter, was starved throughout the game, and the only time he had a chance he was brought down by Lavalie. Freer, his partner, showed initiative and tackled well. Cooke, McDermott and Luckett were prominent and forward. Keeble played a very sound game at full-back.

THE SCORING

Cooke opened the scoring for Gunners with a try in the corner, Marsh failing to add the goal points, though it was an excellent effort. Richardson then gave Club the lead when he culminated a piece of good forward play by scoring near the posts for Castleton to add the goal points. A fumbled pass by a Club back saw Freer pick up and send McDermott over between the posts, only for Marsh to fail with an easy kick. In the second half Richardson should have given Club a further score but he was grassed in possession instead of passing to the unmarked Van Leeuwen. From a scrum 10 yards from the Gunners' line Rutherford broke through to score close to the posts, but Castleton was unable to land the goal points, the ball falling over as he was about to kick.

Club "A" — Roscoe; P. Wilson, Lavalie, Richardson and Van Leeuwen; Cessford and Rutherford; Castleton, Burford, Stoker; Needham, Benn; Redman, Thornhill and King.

8th Heavy Regt. R. A.—Keeble; Richards, Freer, Stone and Marsh; Smythe and Foster; McDermott, Luckett, Cooke; Turner, Rawlins; Larthe, Martin and Plummer.

CLUB-POLICE TEAM FOR SATURDAY

The combined Club-Police team to meet Combined Services on Saturday is as follows: Wall (Police); Taylor (Police); Fay (Police); Bidwell (Club) and Stewart (Club); Charter (Club) and Thomson (Club); Walkden (Club) (Captain), Burford (Club), Searle (Police); Needham (Club), Cullinan (Police); Dempsey (Police), Taylor (Club) and Kennedy (Club).

SERVICES' TEAMS

Following are the Combined Services teams for the games against combined Club and Police on the Club ground on Saturday:

"A" XV—Bax (Navy); Nicholls (Navy); Waite (Army); Boe (Army); Bowden (Navy); Hock (Army); Gallagher (Navy); Evans (Army); Brown (Navy); Berry (Army); Longmuir (Navy); Brinkley (Army); Pugh (Army); Charles (Navy); Gale (Navy).
Reserves—Pickin (Army); Drake (Army); Marsh (Army).
"B" XV—Stewart (Navy); Burford

CRICKET MEETING

A meeting of cricket clubs will be held in the pavilion of Hong Kong Cricket Club to-morrow at 5.30 p.m. in order to discuss the question of carrying on the Cricket League.

COLONY RUGBY 18 SELECTED

11 NEWCOMERS TO INTERPORTS

The following 18 players have been invited to make the trip to Shanghai for the Interport Rugby match against Shanghai on February 8.

J. R. HENDERSON
D. H. STEWART
J. HUTCHISON
H. D. BIDWELL
J. C. CHARTER
D. I. BOSANQUET
F. A. CESSFORD
J. M. THOMSON
A. F. WALKDEN (Capt.)
F. BURFORD
R. G. CASTLETON
A. M. KENNEDY
C. F. NEEDHAM
E. A. BOMPAS
G. B. GODFREY
A. J. G. TAYLOR (Vice-Capt.)
W. B. RICHARDSON
B. O'W. DEANE

One other match will be played, against the U.S. Marines or a British Services' team, on February 10. The team will leave together with the Association Interport team, and will return to Hong Kong on about the 14th February.

Only prominent absentees are R. E. Heaseman and P. F. Wanklyn.

Bidwell, Stewart, Burford and Kennedy have all represented Shanghai, the last named captaining the last victorious Shanghai team.

New Colony "caps", providing they are selected for the "big" game, are Charter, Bosanquet, Cessford, Thomson, Burford, Castleton, Kennedy, Needham, Bompas, Godfrey and Richardson.

Providing all are fit, the following appears to be the likely team, though I would have preferred Godfrey to Kennedy—but he is not in favour with the Selectors: Henderson; Stewart, Bidwell, Charter and Bosanquet; Cessford and Thomson; Walkden, Burford, Castleton; Needham, Bompas; Kennedy, Taylor and Deane.

Don't miss Scrum-Half's" Rugby article in to-morrow's "China Mail."

(Army), Lang (Army), Paul (Navy), Kennedy (Navy); Carter (Navy), Clark (Navy); Palmer (Navy), Sutherland (Army); Hewitt (Army); Taylor (Navy), King (Navy); Pinkerton (Army), Cuthbertson (Army), Riddale (Army).

Reserves—Waite (Army); Charles (Navy).

POINTLESS DRAW

Fourteen Police held Kai Tak to a pointless draw at Boundary Street yesterday.

Taylor, full-back, Luscombe, scrum-half, and Dempsey, wing-forward, shone for Police and Henderson, scrum-half, and R. Wynn and Taylor, full-backs, were prominent for Kai Tak.

THRILLING RECOVERY IN FINAL ROUND

(By "ADREM")

KING'S COLLEGE'S HOPES of winning the "B" Division badminton title were rudely shattered at King's Park yesterday evening when, leading Recreio by 4-2 at the commencement of the final round, they lost three games in a row to suffer their first defeat in five matches.

Recreio's victory is all the more surprising as they were badly beaten last week by St. John's, from whom they did not take a game.

King's efforts to strengthen their third string brought nothing but disaster as S. W. Liang, who was brought into the side to partner W. M. Cheung, was sadly out of practice, and Cheung was unable to do anything right.

The loss of three games by this combination proved too big a handicap for the other two pairs, who played well.

Recreio are to be heartily congratulated on their fine achievement. They were up against it all the time. Led 1-2 after the first round, and 2-4 after the second, they might have been excused if they had given up all hopes of victory.

FINE WIN

A really splendid win by Henry Gonsalves and R. A. Marques, who trailed all the way against Lui and Woo only to snatch victory at the post, and another fine effort on the part of the two veterans H. A. Barros and A. E. Xavier, however, saw the scores leveled with all depending on the last game of the evening between the respective third strings, W. M. Cheung and S. W. Liang, and N. A. Beltrao and P. A. Yvanovich.

Hitherto the latter pair had been pathetically weak and anything might have resulted from this game.

The Portuguese pair, however, managed to raise their standard whereas the King's pair were probably worse than in their previous games and so Recreio scored a fine win to cause the biggest upset in this division to date.

W. C. Chung, P. T. instructor at King's, made a promising debut in partnership with S. P. Chan, and, considering his lack of experience, did very well indeed.

All the Recreio players gave good displays and more than matched their opponents for strokes and courtcraft. Yvanovich, however, still needs to learn a good deal about courtcraft. He is young and will be very good but at the moment he is hardly up to the standard required in a potential championship side, as Recreio, their defeat by St. John's notwithstanding, must now be considered.

K.C.C. DO WELL

St. Teresa's, without Austin Ho, did not have matters all their own way against Kowloon Cricket Club, whom they met at Kowloon Tong.

Finest performance of the evening was the victory of Wynter-Blyth and Kevan over the powerful John Chen-Francis Tsang combination by 21-10.

The Cricket Club might very well have secured a fourth game as H. S. Jones and J. R. Turner, playing against Joseph Lum and John Tang, were only beaten on the post in a thrilling finish.

Anderson and Fisher, although only winning one game, gave impressive displays and might have won another game.

St. Teresa's are now bracketed at the head of the table with King's.

A. E. Xavier and H. A. Barros (Recreio) lost to K. L. Liu and H. T. Woo ... 5-21
lost to N. Smith and P. Wilson ... 12-21
lost to D. Kwok and R. Maynard ... 6-21
D. M. Xavier and S. A. Rumjahn (V.R.C.) lost to Eardley and Beavan ... 18-21
lost to Smith and Wilson ... 13-21
beat Kwok and Maynard ... 21-14
J. Sousa and F. Castro (V.R.C.) lost to Eardley and Beavan ... 12-21
lost to Smith and Wilson ... 9-21
lost to Kwok and Maynard ... 6-21

DEATH OF G.E. CLARKE

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr. G. E. Clarke, former K.C.C. League tennis player, Hon. Secretary of the now defunct Mamak Hockey Tournament and C.B.A. Ladies' hockey coach.

Mr. Clarke died in England on August 7, according to word just received. He was invalided home from Hong Kong about 18 months ago.

Mrs. Clarke and her three children are to leave for India at an early date.

R. A. Marques and H. F. Gonsalves (Recreio) beat Lui and Woo ... 24-19
lost to Chan and Chung ... 13-21
beat Cheung and Liang ... 21-9

St. Teresa's Again

St. Teresa's beat K.C.C. 6-3 in the "B" Division of the Badminton League last evening.

Peter Lo and Joseph Tsang (St. Teresa's) beat J. L. Anderson and A. L. Fisher 21-16
beat T. Wynter-Blyth and T. C. Kevan 21-7
beat J. R. Turner and H. S. Jones 21-5
John Chen and F. Tsang (St. Teresa's) beat Anderson and Fisher ... 21-18
lost to Wynter-Blyth and Kevan ... 10-21
beat Turner and Jones ... 21-4
J. Lum and John Tang (St. Teresa's) lost to Anderson and Fisher ... 8-21
lost to Wynter-Blyth and Kevan ... 7-21
beat Turner and Jones ... 23-22

St. John's Win

St. John's beat Victoria Recreation Club by 8 sets to one.

A. Guterres and A. K. Rumjahn (V.R.C.) lost to H. Eardley and R. Beavan ... 5-21
lost to N. Smith and P. Wilson ... 12-21
lost to D. Kwok and R. Maynard ... 6-21
D. M. Xavier and S. A. Rumjahn (V.R.C.) lost to Eardley and Beavan ... 18-21
lost to Smith and Wilson ... 13-21
beat Kwok and Maynard ... 21-14
J. Sousa and F. Castro (V.R.C.) lost to Eardley and Beavan ... 12-21
lost to Smith and Wilson ... 9-21
lost to Kwok and Maynard ... 6-21

FOOTBALL

SERVICE CORPS BEAT MEDICALS

At Sookimpoo yesterday Service Corps beat the Medicals by five goals to one in their re-arranged Third Division fixture.

From the start Service Corps kept the Medicals penned in their own half. Glen and Morgan combined well on the wing and sent in many fine centres. Somerville, who began scored. Hills and Morgan scored further goals in the first half.

In the second half goals were scored by Glen and Morgan. Hills and Morgan scored further goals in the second half.

WITH the local football season already half over it is interesting to note that fewer games have been played than anticipated and it is probable, in spite of the additional camp season, that the season will be finished by the middle of April at the latest.

With this end in view it is proposed to use all available dates for the re-arrangement of these postponed matches, such as the dates earmarked for the British New and the Chinese New Year holidays.

Civilian clubs, which are most affected by postponements have more or less agreed to play a few games during midweek, if necessary, to expedite the end of the season, and with this co-operation there should be no anxiety about it being unduly prolonged.

Another pleasing feature about the

SPORTS PARADE

postponed games is that the Western teams are well up with their games with the exception of Kowloon, who are still two games behind. Both South China "A" and Eastern have played all their games so far.

In the "A" section of the Second Division, Eastern and South China complete their fixtures in a fortnight's time, as also do the Royal Scots and Engineers in the "B" section. From this it will be seen that the play-off for the championship between the winners of the respective sections can

go on while the other clubs catch up with their fixtures.

In "B" division, University have several games outstanding, postponed owing to examinations, but as they are willing to play on week-days they should be able to complete their fixtures before the Chinese New Year.

Volunteer cadets prevented Electric from playing three of their games but as the Third Division will have several vacant weeks before the end of the season, there will be no difficulty in these matches being played off.

THE following are the postponed games so far:-

FIRST DIVISION

Royal Scots	v	Eastern
Club	v	Club
St. Joseph's	v	South China "B"
Kowloon	v	South China "B"
Royal Scots	v	South China "B"

SECOND DIVISION ("A" SECTION)

Club	v	Club
Club	v	5th R.A.
South China	v	5th R.A.
Ordnance	v	South China
Ordnance	v	5th R.A.
5th A.A.R.A.	v	5th R.A.
5th R.A.	v	Club

SECOND DIVISION ("B" SECTION)

Air Force	v	University
University	v	Royal Scots
University	v	Kowloon
University	v	Engineers
University	v	Engineers

THIRD DIVISION

Electric	v	Engineers
Electric	v	South China
Electric	v	5th R.A.



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Mt. Parker	1784
Mountain Lodge	1725
The Herle	1725
Peak Tram Station	1305
Tallies Amphitheatre	1000
Mt. Cook	877
Swiss Road (Shearhall)	877
Marble	Feet.
Tallies	8164
Victoria Peak	1823

SO WHAT?

Propaganda takes a new form in the circulation throughout Shanghai and Hong Kong of a document, to which some publicity has already been given, extending an invitation to leading residents (and their ladies) to a reception and ball at the Repulse Bay Hotel "on the occasion of the formal signing of the agreement between China and Great Britain whereby the retrocession of Hong Kong becomes an accomplished fact."

First impression of the document is that it is an elaborate leg-pull. It is, however, apparent on examination that a deeper purpose has motivated its circulation.

While the office of "Retrocession Commissioner for the International Settlement of Shanghai and for Hong Kong and Kowloon" may be regarded as somewhat in the nature of a sinecure, the postmark shows that the "invitation" received by the Editor of the "China Mail" (and His Lady) was despatched from Nanking.

18 NATIONS RESPOND

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

Geneva, To-day.

States which have answered Geneva's appeal to help Finland now number 18, of which 10 are American countries.

In addition, Eire has informed the

SINKING OF DUNBAR CASTLE

London, To-day.

Describing the sinking of the Dunbar Castle, one passenger said that he was in his cabin with his wife and children when they heard a "terrible bang." It must have been a mine, he said.

All the ship's lights went out, and the children asked him:—"Is it a blackout already?"

They went up on deck and found everything most orderly. Passengers were getting into the boats without any signs of panic. All passengers got off safely.—Reuter.

SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS

London, To-day.

Three of the survivors of the Oakgrove required hospital treatment.

British naval vessels were busy hunting in the North Sea yesterday for further survivors of the mined liner Dunbar Castle. According to the latest reports, all but two of the ship's crew have been rescued.—Reuter.

League of Nations that she is consulting the Red Cross with the object of granting humanitarian assistance to Finland.—Havas.

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London, To-day.

Additional details of the North Sea air battle disclose that twin-engined multi-gun Messerschmitts, Germany's latest and fastest fighter, diving with the advantage of the sun behind them, were unable to shake the British bomber formation.

The clash occurred some 200 miles from the English coast.

The British planes met the challenge of the faster Nazi machines by bringing the concentrated fire of several aircraft to bear on the diving enemy fighters.

Even the heaviest close-range attacks were successfully beaten off by the British, keeping "shoulder to shoulder" in tight formation.

One British plane was hit in the first attack and dropped astern. A second attack was immediately launched on this plane, which was seen to fall into the sea.

The score was evened up a few minutes later when an enemy fighter crashed into the sea, flinging a great column of spray into the air.

At least two other Messerschmitts were damaged but were not seen to crash, and it is assumed that it was one of these which later made a forced landing in Denmark.

The action was finally broken off by the enemy and the British formation pressed their reconnaissance a further 130 miles, although several of the British planes bore signs of the fierce combat in which they had participated.—Reuter.

The products of 61 additional factories in Japanese "occupied" China, including Shanghai, Tientsin, Tsingtao, and Peiping, have been prohibited in "Free" China, according to an official announcement by the local office of the Chinese Maritime Customs.

This brings the total to over 100.

The Customs also announced this morning that foreigners travelling into China will in future have to declare the amount of jewellery carried. Details will be noted on their passports or other documents, the main object being to prevent the smuggling of gold out of the country.

Bartley (West Va.), To-day.
Eighty-five men are trapped in a coal-mine here following an explosion. Two others are known to have been killed.—Reuter.

BIRTH

FISHER—To Kathleen, wife of A. L. Fisher, at the War Memorial Hospital on 11th January, 1940, a daughter.

Copenhagen, To-day.

Wreckage, believed to be from a German war-ship struck by a mine, has been washed up at Esbjerg.—Reuter.

London, To-day.

Rome Radio, in a broadcast to New York, states that Italy has agreed to send military aid to Hungary in the event of her being threatened by a Soviet invasion.

The broadcast added that Hungary had agreed to shelve for the present her claims on Transylvania (Rumania) in view of the more immediate concern of the Bolshevik menace, but this menace is not acute as long as Finland holds out.—Reuter.

Copenhagen, To-day.

The German plane which was forced down at Toendar, in Denmark, last evening, is stated not to have been connected with yesterday's North Sea air battle.—Reuter.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

Shanghai, To-day.

The Eckford case was adjourned for an hour this morning while the jury inspected the blockhouse where the shooting occurred.

Upon the jury's return the foreman asked that several passages from the evidence be read. He also requested that Private Stirling be recalled, but on being given the details required, said this was unnecessary.

The Crown Advocate summed up for 45 minutes. He said there could be no doubt that Eckford shot Davis but the real point for the Crown was to show that the killing was intentional.

Subsequently he detailed corroboration of various evidence showing the killing was intentional. It was not the duty of the Crown, he said, to show the motive for the murder but merely to establish the fact of murder.

He pointed out that at no time had accused said the shooting was an accident, merely confining himself to stating "I killed him." It was difficult to doubt that from the time the rifle was loaded, accused intended to kill Davis.

The Crown Advocate told the jury that they had two duties, first to ascertain whether it was murder, and the second their duty towards the public.

Defending counsel pointed out the responsibilities for the jury. He said there was no doubt that Davis was killed by a rifle held by Eckford, but the shooting was unintentional and unpremeditated. He dwelt on the unreliability of Privates Sullivan, Northrop and Stirling as witnesses. Their mental standard, he said, was not high. Eckford, counsel maintained, was calm after the shooting because the shot had sobered him up after seven bottles of beer.

The case was adjourned at 1 p.m. to 2.30. The verdict and judgment are expected late this afternoon.—Our Own Correspondent.

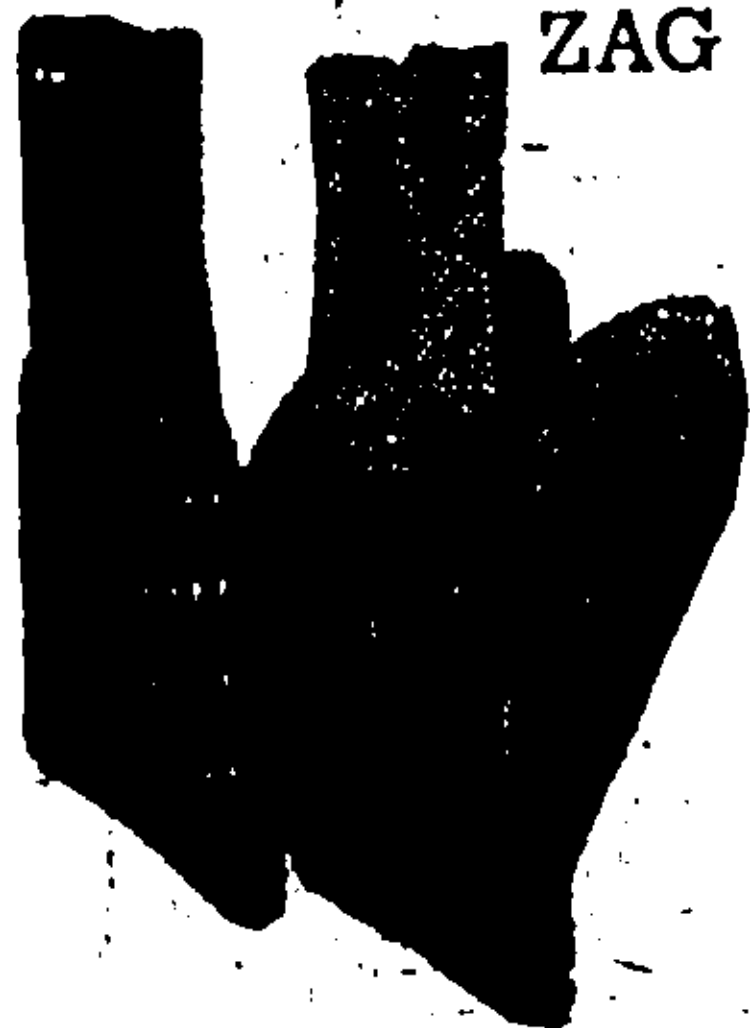
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